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KNOWLEDGE CONCLAVE

Kerala for All summit begins

The 2-day meet on inclusive tourism is organised in Kochi by Kerala Tourism in association with *The Hindu*

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Why is India-EU trade agreement significant?

FAQ » PAGE 17

Between the sea and the state

PROFILES » PAGE 18

Kishan's blitz powers India to 4-1 series win

SPORT » PAGE 20

NEARBY

Had fruitful meets with firms in Davos: Patil

BENGALURU
Industries Minister M.B. Patil said he had a 30 minutes interaction with Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran at , besides talks with 46 MNCs and Indian companies, and investors. » PAGE 9

Police register UDR in C.J. Roy death case

BENGALURU
Bengaluru police on Friday registered an Unnatural Death Report in the death of businessman C.J. Roy, who allegedly shot himself at his office while Income Tax officials were completing raid formalities. » PAGE 3

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 4 & 6
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No. of backward taluks up in State

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Despite Karnataka's strong socio-economic growth over the past 25 years, the Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee (2026), headed by economist M. Govinda Rao, has found a significant increase in the number of backward taluks.

It identified 93 taluks as most backward, 36 as more backward, 43 as backward, and 64 as developed taluks.

The panel submitted its report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday.

A High-Powered Committee (HPC-I) on regional imbalances, headed by D.M. Nanjundappa in 2002, had classified 39 taluks as most backward, 40 as more backward, 39 as backward and the remaining 61 as developed. The total number of taluks in Karnataka has increased from 175 in 2001 to 236 at present, an addition of 61 taluks.

The Govinda Rao-headed panel said the proportion of backward taluks in the total number of taluks has increased from 65% in 2001-02 to 72.8% in 2022-23, indicating a widening of regional imbalances despite overall economic progress.

Per capita income

The report noted that the high rank in per capita income in the State was not matched by improvement in human development.

A sharp increase in inequality in per capita income was due to concentration of growth in modern services sector, only in a few districts, it said.

While the rich can afford to "buy" better quality private education and healthcare, the poor are forced to access deteriorating public education and public health services, it observed.

RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGE 9

Sunetra Pawar sworn in as Deputy CM of Maharashtra

Wife of late NCP leader Ajit Pawar becomes first woman to hold the post in the State, set to handle 3 portfolios; family not consulted, talks for reunification were in the final stage, says Sharad Pawar

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

A day after the conclusion of the three-day State mourning for late Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar, who died in an air crash in Baramati on January 28, his wife Sunetra Pawar was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra at a brief ceremony in Mumbai on Saturday evening. She is the fist woman to occupy the post in the State.

The swearing-in, which lasted barely a few minutes, took place amid intense political activity in Baramati and Mumbai, with several leaders questioning the need for the hurried decision. Ms. Pawar will oversee three portfolios – Excise, Minority Affairs, and Sports and Youth Welfare.

Sunetra Pawar greets Eknath Shinde, Deputy CM from the Shiv Sena, during the swearing-in on Saturday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Earlier in the day, NCP (SP) leader Sharad Pawar held a press conference in Baramati, saying the Pawar family had neither been consulted nor informed about the swearing-in. He clarified that there was no proposal from the NCP for a merger at this stage.

Naming senior leaders Praful Patel and Sunil Tatkare, he suggested that the decision about Ms. Pawar appeared to have been taken independently by them.

Mr. Pawar added that talks with Ajit Pawar about reunification were in the final stage before his death, and that the announcement was to be made soon. "It was Dada's wish [that the two parties should reunite]. It should be fulfilled; it is our wish," Mr. Pawar said, describing the death of Ajit Pawar as a tremendous loss. NCP (SP) sources said that Jayant Patil and Rohit Pawar were expected to be given ministerial berths in the government.

Party's choice

In Mumbai, the NCP called a meeting of all legislators at Vidhan Bhavan on Saturday afternoon. In all, 45 of the 48 legislature party members attended the meeting and chose Ms. Pawar as the group leader. The decision was made after the proposal by Cabinet Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, supported by five Cabinet colleagues, including Dilip Walse-Patil, Hasan Mushrif, and Narhari Zhirwal.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 11
OUT OF THE SHADOWS
» PAGE 18

Four workers found dead in shed near Hoskote

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Four migrant workers from Assam working for a private company were found dead under mysterious circumstances inside a labour shed in Muthsandra village of Hoskote taluk, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, on Saturday.

The deceased have been identified as Jayant Sindhe, 25, Neerendranath, 24, Doctor Tide, 25 and Dhananjay Tide, 20. They were employed at a soft drinks warehouse and were staying in a labour shed close to their workplace.

According to the police, the men were sleeping inside the shed when the incident occurred. Preliminary investigation suggests that the deaths may have been caused due to suffocation, though the exact cause is yet to be confirmed.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 3

Unlikely friends: Showcasing a symbiotic relationship, a rufous treepie feeds on ectoparasites on a sambar deer at Pench Tiger Reserve.

Hand in glove: A pack of wild dogs rests together, taking a break from the day's hunt, in the National Park.

Used to visitors: The current generation of tigers at the reserve has almost grown up with the sounds of jeep safaris and humans visiting their habitat.

Fiesty felines: Two tigers in a brawl spotted near Bakhari Lake inside the Pench Tiger Reserve. The female is the mother of a five-month-old litter, possibly explaining the reticence towards the male.

Tigers find a safe perch in Pench

With a strong prey base and well-protected forests, Pench National Park in central India is writing a success story in tiger conservation; the lush landscape that inspired the setting for Kipling's *The Jungle Book* is also growing to be a popular destination among tourists, as it offers streamlined entry and a high chance of wildlife sightings

K.R. Deepak
deepak.kr@thehindu.co.in

Straddling the forested corridor between Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, Pench National Park continues to strengthen its standing as one of central India's key tiger conservation success stories. Recent population assessments indicate a steady rise in tiger numbers, with the broader Pench landscape now estimated to support more than a hundred big cats.

Forest officials credit this growth to a robust prey base – including chital, sambar, gaur, and wild boar – along with well-protected habitats that also sustain leopards, dholes, sloth bears, and a rich diversity of birdlife. More than 300 bird species have been documented, underlining the reserve's ecological depth.

Shared haven

Spanning 758 sq.km of contiguous forest spread across Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, Pench allows safaris to operate from both States. Of this area, 257 sq.km lies in Maharashtra, where shared borders facilitate genetic exchange among tigers – a factor conservation experts view as critical to long-term population health.

Located just two hours from Nagpur, Pench has also benefited from a surge in wildlife tourism. According to Conservation India, wildlife travel in the country is growing at nearly 15% annually. The reserve recently drew wider public attention following a visit by players of the Indian national cricket team ahead of their T20 match against New Zealand in Nagpur.

On the Maharashtra side, the Sillari gate is emerging as a preferred safari route due to a higher probability of wildlife sightings. With regulated vehicle entry and landscapes immortalised by Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, Pench today balances conservation priorities with its rising stature as a global wildlife destination.

Generous menu: A stable prey base in the reserve has been credited with supporting the growing tiger population and a diverse array of wildlife.

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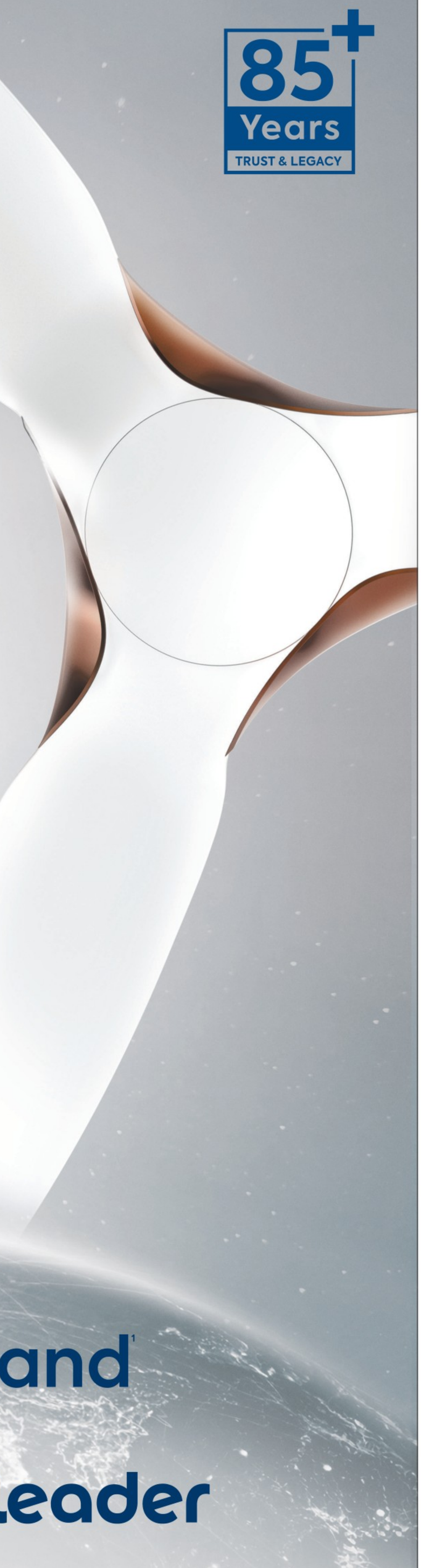

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1.Euromonitor International Limited, based on custom research on ceiling fan brands unit sales in 2024 in the world, claim applicable across sales in retail channels only, research as of October 2025"

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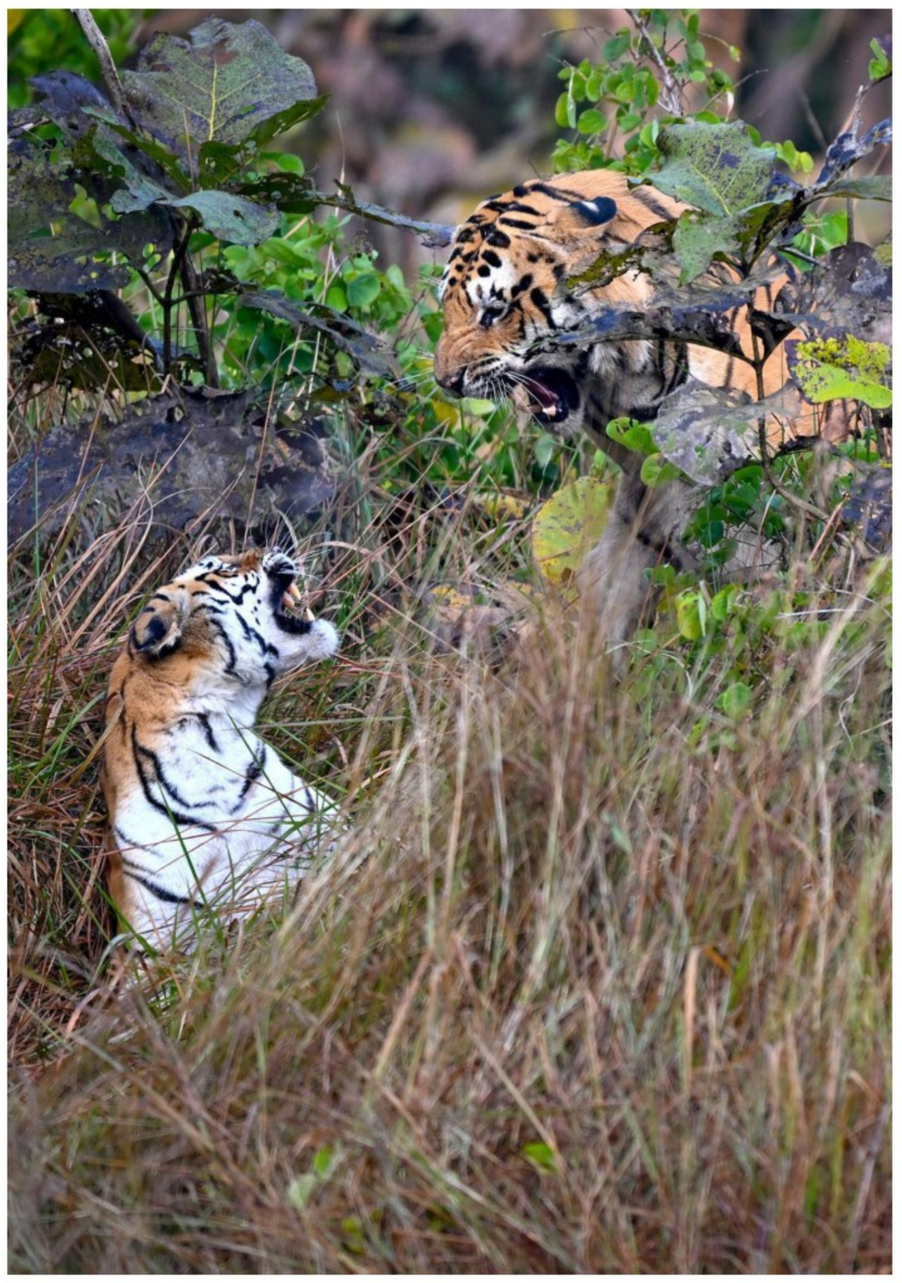
A BG-BGE

Wary wanderers: Spotted deer on alert while grazing at Pench Tiger Reserve.

Vibrant visitor: An Indian roller perched atop a dry branch at the reserve.

Rare sighting: An elusive melanistic leopard lounges on a rock at the park.



Mowgli's home: The forest here was the setting for Rudyard Kipling's renowned *The Jungle Book*.

A wild leap: A tiger springs across the road near Bakhari Lake as tourists watch from their vehicles at the Pench Tiger Reserve.

Police register UDR in C.J. Roy death case

T.A. Joseph, Confident Group M.D., in his complaint, did not directly blame or implicate the I-T Dept., though he mentioned past raids and expressed suspicion, say sources

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru police on Friday registered an Unnatural Death Report (UDR) in the death of businessman C.J. Roy, who allegedly shot himself at his office while Income Tax officials were completing raid formalities, even as his family blamed pressure from the raids for the incident.

C.J. Babu, brother of Mr. Roy, blamed Income Tax officials for the death following the incident. However, T.A. Joseph, managing director of the Confident Group, who lodged the complaint, did not directly blame or implicate the I-T Department, though he mentioned past raids and expressed suspicion, sources said.

The Ashok Nagar police have registered the UDR under Section 194(3)(4) of BNSS, 2023, which mandates police investigation into suspicious, accidental, or suicidal deaths.

The incident

In his complaint, Mr. Joseph stated that Mr. Roy had gone with him to the office to record his statement with the I-T Department, after which they went to his cabin. A few minutes later, Mr. Roy said he wanted to speak to his mother. When Mr. Joseph returned after 10 minutes, the security guard outside the cabin told him that Mr. Roy had instructed him not to allow anyone inside.

C.J. Roy

However, when Mr. Roy did not come out for more than 20 minutes and did not respond to calls, people in the office broke open the door and found him dead on his chair.

Police sources said Mr. Roy shot himself by placing a pistol to his chest. The incident occurred between 3 p.m. and 3.15 p.m. on Friday. He was taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him "brought dead".

Investigations revealed that Mr. Roy possessed a licensed pistol, which he used. The firearm has been sent for a ballistics test. Police have seized Mr. Roy's mobile phones. No death note was found inside the cabin.

To record statement

Mr. Roy, who was based in Dubai, had visited Bengaluru three days prior to the incident following a summons from the Income Tax Department to record his statement in connection with the raids on his company.

Speaking to mediapersons on Saturday, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said the I-T Department had conducted raids on Mr. Roy's company in December 2025. "They (I-T officials) were apparently required to mandatorily complete the chargesheet process within 60 days. Therefore, they wanted to finalise everything before February 4," he said.

Mr. Parameshwara said he had directed the police to conduct a preliminary inquiry into the events before and after the incident and to examine what prompted Mr. Roy to take the extreme step. He said that the police would decide whether to summon I-T officials based on what emerges from the investigation.

Mr. Babu told mediapersons that his brother had no enemies, had not received any death threats, and was not suffering from depression.

He added that the only issue he was aware of was the investigation by the I-T Department.

Meanwhile, several politicians have alleged that targeted raids by the I-T Department created fear and amounted to "harassment". However, Mr. Parameshwara said this has not yet been established and therefore cannot be speculated upon.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

Joint Commissioner-led SIT to probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru police have formed a six-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the death of C.J. Roy, founder and chairman of the Confident Group and Honorary Counsel of the Slovak Republic, who reportedly shot himself to death during Income Tax raids at his office on Friday.

The team will be headed by C. Vamsi Krishna, Joint Commissioner of Police, West Zone.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh issued an order on Saturday, citing the complexity of the case.

While Mr. Krishna will oversee the probe, Lokesh B. Jagalasar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), South Division, has been appointed as the chief investigating officer. He will be assisted by Akshay Hakay Machhindra, DCP, Central Division. The team also comprises Sudhir, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Halasur Gate Sub-Division; Ramachandra, ACP, CCRB; and Ravi K.B., Inspector, Ashoknagar.

Further, the SIT is empowered to co-opt officers, as required, from the jurisdiction or other units for the purpose of investigation, with prior permission from Mr. Krishna.

Bullet pierced Roy's heart and lungs, causing instant death, say hospital authorities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

C.J. Roy, founder and chairman of Confident Group, died of a bullet wound to the left side of his chest, said Aravind M.N., medical superintendent of Bowring Hospital. He added that a single 6.35 mm bullet pierced Mr. Roy's heart and passed through his lungs up to the back.

'No exit wound'

"It was almost a through-and-through injury, except that there was no exit wound. In our opinion, he may have collapsed instantaneously and died," Mr. Aravind said.

According to him, a CT scan was conducted as part of a routine procedure. The bullet was retrieved and sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL).

The post-mortem was conducted on Saturday, following which the body was handed over to the family.

KSRTC directs removal of tobacco ads from buses within 15 days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has directed all its divisions to remove advertisements that directly or indirectly promote the consumption of tobacco products from its buses and bus stands within 15 days. This applies to all forms of advertising displayed on KSRTC buses as well as hoardings and gloss signboards installed at bus stops across the State.

The decision follows a directive from Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, who instructed the corporation to ensure that no advertisements encouraging tobacco use are promoted with immediate effect and that any existing advertisements are to be removed by February 15.

KSRTC has asked officials at the divisional level to issue notices to advertising licensees operating at bus stops, warning them against displaying direct or indirect tobacco-related promotions.

BMRCL launches campaign to promote commuter etiquette

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) has launched a special awareness drive across Namma Metro trains to promote commuter etiquette and address behaviours that cause inconvenience to co-passengers. This comes amid repeated complaints about loud music, eating inside coaches, misuse of priority seating, and consumption of tobacco products, which officials say affect the comfort or safety of other commuters in a shared public space.

As part of the drive, BMRCL deployed special onboard teams consisting of Home Guards to sensitise passengers and counsel those found violating basic travel norms. Data from the year-long exercise show that 57,538 commuters were found playing loud music inside trains, while 37,038 were counselled for occupying priority seats without vacating them for senior citizens, pregnant women, or persons with disabilities.

BMRCL, in a statement, has warned commuters that such acts can attract penalties.

Gangs of Wasseypur or *Mukkabaaz* can't be made today, says Anurag Kashyap

Sindhu Nagaraj
BENGALURU

For film-maker Anurag Kashyap, the biggest fear is not being able to make the kind of cinema he wants to make. He believes he can not make *Gangs of Wasseypur* or *Gulaal* or *Mukkabaaz* today, and even if he does, they would come under the sword of censorship.

Speaking at the 17th Bangalore International Film Festival, 2026, during the session "Fearless Filmmaking" on Saturday, Anurag said, "*Gangs of Wasseypur* or *Mukkabaaz* would not have been made today because of the themes I chose to tell the story with. And, if they were released, they would have been heavily censored".

Anurag, known for his iconic films like *Gangs of Wasseypur* and *Dev.D*, said that many honest filmmakers are trying to find a way out of the censorship battle.

Film-maker Anurag Kashyap speaking at the Bangalore International Film Festival on Saturday. SINDHU NAGARAJ

"India is still better, it gives me hope. If film-makers can make cinema in Russia and China, we also can," he said in conversation with critic and writer Baradwaj Rangan. "Movies which engender important conversations will be made in India, at some point. We just need to wait," he added.

Films have always been made for big screen, but owing to OTT platforms and convenience, people choose to watch it on smaller devices like phones and laptops, he said. "When I made *Nishaanchi*, I envisioned it in such a way that it should be made and watched on the big screen. But, times are changing now. People watch films at their convenience. The format has destroyed the way people watch cinema," he said.

"The joy of cinema is watching it on big screen. You can't watch *Mera Naam Joker* or *Sholay* on a phone. These films are made for the theatre experience, and it's a disgrace if they are watched otherwise," Anurag said.

'OTT film-maker'

Calling himself an OTT film-maker even before OTT platforms came about, he said, "People download my films on Torrents. I'm used to my films becoming popular four years after they released".

Asked about some of the examples fearless films in India, Anurag named *Bad Girl*, *Sabar Bonda*, and *Jugnuma* as great examples.

Social media has become a film critic, Anurag said. "Social media is too quick to judge anything that is out there. There are immediate reactions on social media but I feel we can only truly judge films over a period of time".

Anurag said misogyny and patriarchy exist in the country which is why they are reflected in the films as well. "I can't separate myself from that world, and because discourse is missing, these films get backlash when they are released," he said.

On asked what he felt about the trailer of Kannada film *Toxic*, Anurag said the trailer was good, and because of social media, it got unnecessary hate. "When a woman is in control of her sexuality and enjoys it on screen, it becomes a problem, but when men do it, people don't say anything. It's because social media controls the narrative, this blew out of proportion".

Azim Premji University to host '*Sahitya Sahavasa*'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, will organise *Sahitya Sahavasa*, the sixth edition of its literary and cultural series, at Kannada Bhavana in Tumakuru on Sunday.

The event will celebrate the lives and works of eminent contemporary Kannada writers Dr. Baragur Ramachandrappa and Lalitha Siddabasavaiah.

Noted literary critic Dr. H.S. Raghavendra Rao will inaugurate the programme. The day-long event will feature talks by writers and scholars.

Poetry recitations, theatre songs, a portrait exhibition are planned.

From Page One

4 workers found dead in shed near Hoskote

Police said the workers had allegedly cooked food inside the shed on Friday night after closing all doors and windows. Investigators suspect that poor ventilation may have led to oxygen depletion or inhalation of toxic fumes, resulting in their deaths.

The incident came to light when the men failed to report for duty on Saturday (January 31, 2026) morning, prompting co-workers to check on them. Upon receiving information, Sulibele police rushed to the spot and found all four workers unconscious inside the shed. They were declared dead on the spot.

"The doors and windows were found closed. There are indications that the workers may have died due to suffocation while cooking inside the room. However, we are not ruling out other possibilities at this stage," a senior police officer said. Senior police officials visited the scene and conducted a preliminary inspection. The area was secured, and evidence was collected.

The incident has caused panic among migrant labourers working in nearby industrial units. Local residents raised concerns over the poor living conditions of contract workers, pointing out that many labour sheds lack basic safety measures such as proper ventilation and fire safety facilities.

The bodies have been shifted to a government hospital for post-mortem examination. Police said the final cause of death will be determined after receiving the post-mortem and forensic reports. Statements from co-workers, warehouse management staff and contractors are being recorded.

Sulibele Police have filed an Unnatural Death Report (UDR) and a probe is underway to see whether there was negligence on the part of the employer or contractor in providing unsafe accommodation to the workers.

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HINDU NADAR 26 yrs, 168 cm, Civil Judge Seeks Bridegroom Below 30 yrs from Same Profession / Group I / Group II Officer in Tamilnadu Only. Ct.9710209761 , 9840425972

HINDI

LOOKING FOR a phd, professor, scientist for a 30 yrs PhD Chem Eng (IITD) Mb: 9417712071

MALAYALAM

CHENNAI SETTLED Malayalee Catholic parents seek suitable alliance for their daughter 29/158cm B.Tech., MS., working in Europe. Contact: 9444072065

ALLIANCE FROM Malayalee unmarried allopathy Doctor groom for unmarried Hindu spinster69 looks young 9495621351

EZHUTHACHAN GIRL from Ottapalam 30, Ph.D Molecular Biology from prestigious US university, studied & worked in US, now moved to India seeks well educated, professionally established groom (30–35) settled in India & supportive of her career. Girls Parents Respectable, well educated, progressive ,worked abroad as NRIs, now settled in Palakkad, Kerala. Send biodata & photograph via WhatsApp to 7907133197/ 9741600790.

✔ **HINDU NAIR Girl, Vilakkithala–27yrs, B.Com, CMA, 168cms, Star: Aswathy, Native Trichur, Family settled at Trivandrum, Currently at Chennai, Pleasant Appearance, Belong to an upper middle–class family, Parents Rtd Govt Officials, seeking a suitable alliance from respectable families, Ct: 9444628290, Email: surendramadav90@gmail.com**

Suitable proposals invited for Catholic Girl 150/32, MBBS MS MCh Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Mobile 9633309066

NRI

GROOM WANTED - Nair girl, 51, M.Sc, never married, US Citizen, well employed Chicago. US residents only, Caste No Bar. Contact : 9895824803

✔ **41 Years/RC** / Tamil/ US Scientist seek US Single Groom Contact: 9884079338.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR, 39 /162cm, working with UN, well–settled family. Well–educated NRI groom preferred. Contact: 9650638095/ 9444852650

CHRISTIAN, Coimbatore - 30 Yrs/ 163cm, M.S., Business, Well settled - Rich and Affluent, Wanted Christian Groom. CT: 9488184227

CHRISTIAN, 26, born-again, rich affluent, ACCA, NRI, 30 crores. PH: 8138900312

✔ **TAMIL MUSLIM Girl 38, Engineer, slim, seeks qualified, employed, unmarried Tamil Groom. 9444235779**

CHRISTIAN CSI , Very Fair , Beautiful, MS Arch , 30 y. Alliance invited from Fair, Handsome, Height min 5Ft and 9 Inches ,Well settled , Good Family Background. Ct: 9884067923

ARCHITECT FAIR Girl, 29 years, well settled and doing free-lancing, Mudaliar, residing in White Town, Puducherry, seeks for a good looking bride groom from decent family, well settled background, age between 30 to 32 years, Salary : 15 LPA & above, must be Roman Catholic in Mudaliar / any forward caste. Cell : 9842320716

CHRISTIAN, 26, UK, Medical, 50 lakhs, VVIP. PH: 8137001255

MUSLIM, 28, Private, NRI, 35 lakhs. PH: 8138900312

Muslim (kula) 31/163, PhD, NRI Abu Dhab seeks groom Professional and religious (no shirk and bidah) 9500146962/ safanet@gmail.com

CATHOLIC, 35, B.Tech, TCS Canada with PR. Would also consider facts revealing tricenarian divorcee without kids. Ct : 75388 02230

TAMIL MUSLIM Bride 31/159cm. MCA., AVP – Tech Lead, US bank, BLR, 30LPA well-settled family, Seeks Tamil speaking never married groom, similar background. Ct 90805 01299

BORN AGAIN Canadian Citizen Bride 29/153cm is looking for God Fearing, Family Oriented, Canadian or American Citizen. Age 30–35, Professional, have Biblical values and Faith. Email Profile and Photo to rvjplanning@gmail.com Call: 96771 81606

TAMIL MUSLIM 28/174 MD Radiology seeks prof qualified bride Ct: 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

HINDU,SC(AD), M Tech, 24, Parent (Doctor–Engineer) seeks Doctor/Engineer/employed– Govt/Abroad–Groom with good family value, Ct:9445530460

TAMIL

TAMIL CSI Protestant Vellala fair 27/165/60kg B.Tech/IT well settled family in Chennai,seeks well settled Christian Doctor/BE/CA/ Architect/ Biz from Chn/Dubai/ US 9840784555

HINDU SCA 30, B.Sc (CS), second Marriage have a child boy 5years need a clean habits Groom.CT: 9994284675

HINDU, 25, Divorced, Chettiyar, MBA, 20 lakhs. 8137003550

HINDU, 28, Tamil speaking Naidu, Bsc, 30 lakhs. 8138900412

HINDU, 34, NRI, BE, caste no bar, 10 crores. 8137001255

HINDU, 32, VIP, NRI, caste no bar, 30 crores. 7356483111

VANIYAKULA KSHATRIYA / Ayilam/ 26 / 5' / B.Arch/ MS Ireland / Fair / Educated Bride's Parents seek well qualified US/ Europe settled groom with a good family background. Hindu same caste, Mudaliyar,Pillai,Yadava, Mukkulathoor,Chettiar and other equivalent Preferably. Whatsapp: 99403 72423/ +9194447 20315

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 26yrs, MBBS, MS, Very big Industrial background, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR 40 / 163cm BE MBA Phd Madurai seeks well Qualified, Employed Groom. Geetham 9884858014

HINDU NADAR, B.Tech M.S, 26 years, 167 cms, and employed in U.S. Fair and beautiful. We seek U.S employed groom (1995 to 1999 born) for our daughter and we are from Chennai. Kindly contact 8105586766 or cgrajkumar@rediffmail.com.

WELL EDUCATED, 37, Divorcee Seeks Compatible Groom. Caste No Bar. Call / WA 9489695984.

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR 34/165 Mirugasim Raghu Lagnam, PG (HR, MNC, Hyderabad) Seeks MS, M.Tech Groom 9176780777

HINDU NADAR, Chennai, 31, Govt Officer, Good Salary, Seeking PG, Well Settled, Educated Family in and around Chennai, 9445055308

WELL SETTLED Doctor, 40 yrs, Divorcee without child, Hindu, BC seeks compatible professional Groom. CNB. Contact:8056868090

HINDU, 29, Pillai, ME, Private, 50 lakhs.PH: 8138900557

HINDU, 31, Mudaliyar, MBA, royal family. PH: 8138900412

HINDU, 30, UK, caste no bar, MSc, 50 crores. PH: 8137003550

MUDALIAR, UTHIRAM, 33/160 fair beautiful PG HR employed in Hyderabad 50L/Pa seeks tall handsome well settled groom. Caste no bar. 8667645622

SC AD Hindu Bride Age 26/163, BE, MBA Thiruvonam/Magaram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct 9443643415

HASTHAM 38 Fair MCA Chennai wanted Pillai/Mudaliar Prof qufd working groom 9444136336/ 8220757159

HINDU NADAR– Divorcee Unconsummated Marriage – 35 Bank/IT, Bangalore Sr.Associate 40LPA Own House. Seeks blw 38yr. Call / WA : 9442126376

BRIDEGROOM WANTED

SENGUNTHA MUDALIAR, 26 Yrs. 154 cms, B.Com Hons., MBA., Into father's Business, Family is financially well off. Looking for affluent family match, preferably in around Pondicherry.

9443469444

Groom Wanted

Ezhuthachan + Iyengar **GIRL** 167 cm, from Bangalore 29, **Masters & Undergraduate from prestigious US university**, studied & worked in US, moved to India & Working in Bangalore, **seeks well educated, professionally established groom (30-35)** settled in India or abroad & supportive of her career. Girl's family Respectable, well educated, progressive, worked in technology sector – settled in Bangalore. Send biodata & photograph via WhatsApp to **9886128948**. Email: **kjayak@gmail.com**

TAMIL

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA 34Yrs, Meensrasi, Revathi star, BE, LLB, Advocate. Seeks Groom with Good job, Good family. 9710002879

DOCTOR MD, 38Yrs, fair, slim, divorced, consultant at reputed hospital in Chennai, seek well–settled groom with clean habits Ph: 9445018192

✔ **HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR,** 39 yrs. 172 cm, BE MBA,(UK) employed in MNC bank, Bangalore,Rs.40 lacs pa, seeking a suitable employed groom. CNB. contact 9176689616.

MUDALIAR, 29 yrs, BE, affluent family with moral values at Bengaluru seek suitable groom. 7975421774

HINDU VANNIYAR Girl, 27yrs, 162cm, kettai, BE, Asst Manager Govt Bank seek suitable Grooms.Ct: 9894128789

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar 31yrs, B.Tech, Working in Bangalore, Elite business family Contact:6385293227

MUDALIAR (CNB) 22/V.Fair, Under Graduate, Father Jewellery Business, Chennai, Elite Family, Seeks Groom– Business/ Industrialist–9962530015

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, MA, Ph.d, well educated Elite family. Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

TAMIL

HINDU TAMIL AD(SC) parents seek bridegroom for their second daughter born 1992, MA (Fashion Design/ UK.), Punar Poosam, Mithuna Rasi from suitable grooms 33 to 36 years professionals working in India or abroad. Caste No Bar. Contact WhatsApp Number 8939642669.

Hindu SC (AD) 26yrs, BSc (Maths), Working as Teacher, well educated family background in Chennai. Seeks suitable Bridegroom. Ct: 94442 15959 (Father), 73059 15303 (Mother)

Seeking a Bangalore settled well Educated Groom from a Decent Family for 28 Years 5.3 height B.com MBA (SC) Tamil Girl Working as Sr. Asso Contact: 9886429482

26 years Tanjore Kallar B.Tech Data analyst at Chennai Seeking good looking tall Mukkulathor groom from IT/Financial industry. Ph: 9444347567

TELUGU

RICH NAIDU, 25 yrs, BE, MBA, Running own Transport in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

GROOM WANTED Kamma Naidu, 28yrs, MBBS, MS, Very Elite business family Contact: 6385293227

NAIDU Girl 28/160, B.E Civil, working in Software, seeks Groom from Telugu speaking chennai only.Ct: 8925731888

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

VELLALAR, 26, 175 cms, B.Arch. Business class family with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match from any similar community in India. Contact: 6366448344

KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, 45, 173 cms, Masters in Engg, Software Professional. Lives in USA. Looking for a suitable match from any equivalent community from Canada or USA or ready to relocate to US. Contact: 6366448344

CHRISTIAN, 57, 165 cms, Widower, MD Surgeon, Doctor. Lives in London. Family is financially well off. Looking for a well educated any suitable Bride from any country, ready to relocate to UK. Contact:6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

NAIDU, 31, 163 cms, M.Arch, Professor. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match from business background from similar community in Chennai only. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 26, 165 cms, MS, Pursuing Education. Lives in USA. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from US from any equivalent community from US. Contact: 6366448344

BOYAR, 27, 178 cms, Masters in Engg, Sr Management. Lives in London. Business class family. Looking for a suitable match from equivalent community from UK or any Europe country. Contact: 6366448344

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TAMIL

MUDALIAR: 26/FAIR & Beautiful, MBBS,MD doing Final year,Chennai, Business Family, Only Daughter, Seeks Groom Doctor/ Business/Eng–8925019776

HINDU, VISHWAKARMA, 25, ME, 50 lakhs, Canada, VIP. PH: 8138009235

HINDU, 29, Divorced, caste no bar, 50 lakhs, MD, Doctor. PH: 8138900412

NAIDU GIRL 29/168, Thiruvathira, M.Tech, working in Bangalore, seeks suitable alliance from well educated and employed grooms. Basically from Tirunelveli. 9400854480

PILLAI PSYCHOLOGIST 26/174 kettai, Slim Fair M.phill Clinical Psychology seeks Good looking Well Qualified Groom Subset No Bar Ct 9840194246

LOOKING FOR a suitable Bridegroom for a vanniar girl, aged 28 yrs, B.com B.L. Hons with ACS & employed in a big Corporate. Similar profile or other Professionals with good family background based in Chennai preferred – 9003199945 / 9003035547

SC/ADIDRAVIDAR/MSC DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employeed bridegroom 8754354205

VANNIA KULAKSHTRIYA Girl, 32 years 155cm, MDS (Dentist), working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai. Star Moolam 4padam, DhanusuRasi. Contact: 9382167197 / 9962781009

SWATHI BE (Mech) MS (NUS) 28 yrs 158 5 years Experience abroad Working in MNC Bangalore Fair Slim intercaste seeks any Professional Groom 9363631558

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 29yrs, MBBS, MPH (US), Elite business family. Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

MUDALIAR 25/166, Fair, Beautiful, BE , SWE, Barclays UK,75000. Pounds. PA,CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

Mudaliar, 29, Fair complexion 154cm, Family oriented Girl from Upper Middle class, Chennai, seeks groom from Govt employed, Software professionals or well settled from Reputed family. Contact: 94449 35026/ 94445 47499.

TELUGU

GAVARA NAIDU, 32, B.Tech (Hons) DLL & AL Star Ashwini, Group II officer Revenue Dept, Only child, upper middle class, Father Ex–CRPF seeks Civil service Group I/ II groom from good family background. 9003450802

KAMMA NAIDU, Chennai, Fair, 23/ 165, B.Com., LL.B (Hons.), seeks suitable Kamma Groom. Ct: 9442636456

HINDU / NAIDU 91 born Dr. Girl MBBS, MD Simham / Magam seeks MD, MS, MCH boy, any Naidu / any Tamil BC/MBC. Ct Parents: 94446 73311

GROOM WANTED Kamma Naidu, 29yrs, B.Tech, Elite Industrial background in Chennai Contact: 6385293227

RICH NAIDU, 35yrs, MBBS, MS, Running own Hospitals in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

NAIDU 25/163 Fair, Beautiful, MS, Senior Engineer, BBC UK, 85000. Pounds.PA, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

URDU

SMU 1993 Born bride/167 MBBS, MD, Chennai. Seeks Doctor groom from good family. Whatsapp/Ct:9585547701

SMU 1991 Born/170cms Well–Settled MD Doctor from Chennai. Seeking Alliance from Doctors, Engineers from Well–Settled Family Ct: 9444551651

SUNNI MUSLIM Urdu, Chennai, 26/ 165cm, currently completing her MS in US. Parents seek suitable, well–educated groom from respectable family. US resident preferred. Contact: 9790765547 WhatsApp.

SUNNI MUSLIM, Never married, 41/ 165cm, Tall, MS, PhD, MBA (all degrees from the USA), senior pharma AI executive, well settled in the US. Seeks sunni muslim Groom preferably never married or widowed/divorced with no kids, 41–50yrs old, well educated & well settled in the US. Ct:9840270993/ Email.riazur12@gmail.com

DIVORCEE

IYER DIVORCEE Boy 51yrs S/W Professional with high salary seeks graduate girl from good family without issues caste no bar simple marriage no demands Ct: 9841672014.

DOCTOR

MUSLIM BOY MBBS 174/29, J.R., Govt. Medical College, Father Rtd. Dist. Officer, Mother Rtd. Deputy Director (Higher Secondary Edn.), reputed family Kollam, Kerala. 9995838247

33 Doctor MD mutual divorcee intercaste Hindu - Christian Caste No Bar. Seeks Doctor UG / PG or other professional degree willing to live in Trichy city. No expectation. Contact : 98430 75979.

HINDU/ THEVAR , Star– Revathi, Lagnam– Meenam / MBBS from Govt. Medical College, 32,Yrs/ 180 CMS, working with Govt. Railway Hospital at Mumbai, from Metropolitan, Affluent family. Seeks MBBS Bride, Never Married, from THEVAR/ MARAVAR /AGAMUDAIYAR from Respectable, Elite Family.Contact: 9869164779/ 9941824629

✔ **Agamudayar, Teetotaller,** Doctor pursuing Postgraduation, 28/167cm seeks Doctor Bride of same subcate from respectable Family. Contact: 9843366206.

Hindu, SC(AD), 28/170cm MBBS, MD Final year Chennai. Seeks Good Looking Doctor Bride below 27 yrs. CNB Ct: 9841897953 / 9710668449

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

ARYA VYSHYA,AGE–44,HT–177CM, work Mumbai–MNC, Good Salary, prop. chennai, 9841551772

HANDSOME, SUCCESSFUL, 36, 188cm, well–spoken, from cultured S. Indian family. Seeking well–educated, compatible bride. Call/WA 9345 634 365.

CHENNAI BUSINESSMAN 54Yr Seeks Companion Educated Unmarried,Divorce, Widow(No Kids) Age 30–40Yr 9444380861

THEVAR. 34/182. B. Arch.(NIT,Trichy) & M. Des.(NID,Ahmedabad). From an affluent family. Owns a furniture design studio at Auroville. Seeks a bride from a decent & educated family. CNB. Ct: 9361864646, 8826238299.

DIVORCEE

SINCERE WIDOWER 45, 179cm, well–read (IIT alum), successful professional. Seeks compatible bride. Religion/caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

AD/42 DIVORCEE Fair MS Engineering (PhD in US) 12 Lac/PerAnnum. Needs Employed Bride / CNB.Ct: 7358485802

ENGINEER

Vanniyar 31/188 BE Germany 4.5LPM Seeking BE MCA Graduation/working Same community with good family background Ct: 9087877789, 9842765576

FINANCE / BANKING

MANAGER, SBI, 32. Seeks independent, broad–minded Tamil or Malayali woman as life partner. People into caste/ religion/ horoscope pl. excuse. Ct: 9789227517 (Whatsapp only).

KERALITE NAIR 36yrs 168cm Btech Manager. Canara bank Manipal. Modest and Godfearing girls. Convenient, WhatsApp message Father 7012087429

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

YADAV (TAMIL, Chennai) 27 yrs / 185 cm Fair,Good Looking Teetotaller Groom, IAS Officer,Uttar Pradesh Cadre,Well Settled Parents Seek Doctor/CA /Business/Group I Officer Bride from an affluent Family in Yadav Community. Ct. 6374949184, 9360893175

MALAYALAM

VISWAKARMA (C) Boy, 34/170, Pooram, MTech. PhD, IIT Madras, seeks alliance from qualified girls from educated families. Caste no bar. 9495363050, 8089795318

36YRS OLD PSB Sr mngr with bladder disorder doing catheterization. less chance for s*xual life. Can conceive by IVF. Bride from any back ground who can accept the medical issues welcome especially who have any physical/medical issues. 8891082891

MUSLIM BOY, Keralite, 33 yrs, 183 cm, divorced by mutual consent (no issues), from a well-to-do family. Engineer, MS (UK), MBA (Canada) from reputed universities. Canadian PR holder. Seeking suitable alliance. WhatsApp: 8921387957.

PUNJABI

LOOKING FOR beautiful bride for 90 born 6 feet tall, M.Tech, Australia PR boy, Manglik Call on 8007943085

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 28, Born again, UK, 10 crores, MS. 8138900316

CHRISTIAN, 28, MS, UK, Fair. 8138901189

CHRISTIAN, 35, MS, Doctor. PH: 8138901189

CHRISTIAN, 29, MBA, 40 lakhs. PH: 8138900316

TAMIL MUSLIM 32/180 BE, MBA, Software Engineer, MNC Seeks Employed Bride. 9884395198

CHRISTIAN, 33, Divorced, BE, 50 lakhs. PH: 9072777822

CHRISTIAN, 27, BE, Private, 50 lakhs. PH: 8138900470

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar 29yrs MS holds 140 status well settled in USA & India seeks same community student, H1B Visa, or Citizen. Ct: 9382266099

LOOKING FOR a Bride for our Son, 39/180cm, M.Tech,MS Engineer Sweden.Hindu Mudaliar, Uthiradam. 9884187197

HINDU NADAR, 43yrs/180cm, Analyst Programmer in Australia, Divorcee (no Issues) seeks good looking well qualified professional. CNB. Ct: 9902047595

VANNIYAKULAKSHATRIAR GROOM 43yrs, Divorced shortlived no issue. B.E, M.B.A(UK). Working in IT Company Chennai. 16.2 laks/PA Contact: 9944928521, 9487935521.

HINDU, 39, any caste, 50 lakhs, widow. 8137003551

DOCTOR

BRIDE WANTED

26 year old Doctor groom, US Citizen from affluent doctor family is looking for suitable bride, preferably from Kongu Vellala Gounder/ similar community living or willing to move to US.

WhatsApp on

94884 70259

TAMIL

HINDU, 30, Nadar, 50 lakhs, MBA. 8138901337

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 27yrs BE, MS working in software 2lac/p/m Elite family Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

THULUVA VELLALA MUDALIYAR, 29 years BE. MBA, Asst. Manager, Federal Bank, Raichur, Karnataka, Subsects No Bar. Seeks Employed (or) Unemployed bride CT: 98450 55046

HINDU NADAR Age 37, Video Editior Pvt Channel Chennai,Salary 40k Rental income 26k Own Hosue in Chennai,Seeks Bride. 9894220700 / 8190900067

HINDU, 32/180, Ph.D, Well Settled, Engineer, Upper Middle class. Working in Canada. Seeks good looking bride. Caste no bar. Ct: 9444087877

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 29yrs, B.Tech, MS (US), working in US, Business Family Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

VAANIYARCHETTY –39 visagam /176/ MS (Sweden) working Sweden 70 L.PA, (Swedish Citizen & OCI), Seeks BE/ MS/ MBA/ MCA/ CA/ Ph.D/ Prof. Bride CNB. Cont:9840429799

MUDALIAR 32/175 Veg Dip Siddha, Trustee Siddhar Trust Perambalur seeks Spiritual Bride Geetham 9884858014

BC EMPLOYED/SETTLED Girl for 35 year BE MBA Govt 1 Lac PM Chennai 9444925350/9884172821

HINDU, 32, Chettiyar, Raku/Ketu, ME, 20 crores. PH: 8137003550

HINDU, 34, Pillai, Nurse, NRI,50 lakhs. PH: 7356483111

MUDALIAR/PILLAI Divorcee (No Kids) BE MBA 32/163 Group 1 Officer working in Coimbatore, Preferably from same community seeking Graduate Girl Divorcee / First Marriage. CT: 94868-53954.

MUDALIAR, 38/172.5, BE, 70 LPA, working as a Software consultant in Sweden. Warmly welcoming a bride from humble, cultured & educated family. Ph: 9994773572/ 9901344995

SENGUNTHAR DOCTOR, 36/183 Divorced no issues, broad minded groom from affluent family seeks suitable professional bride b/w age 29-32 & Ht: 160-170cm, slim Divorced / never married. Caste no bar. Send BHP to palanikumarraaja@gmail.com

SAIVA Pillai CNB M.Sc MBA 4Lakh/ month Company owner 20 crores property only son 173 cm Visagam 47yrs unmarried. W.app-9841553677

Senguntha Mudhaliar Kettai 31/175 IFS(Forest) Officer,well educated family seeks Doctor Bride.CT: 9443428948

WANTED GOOD looking educated bride for IIT educated 33yrs old Tamil family boy working in Bangalore. Ct: +91 98402 54805

KALLAR 39, Star Kettai, BE (ECE) Dy Manager–Telecom Located at Trichy & Madurai, Seeks Suitable Bride Caste No Bar Ct:9443923062/ 9514349990

HINDU, SC, Tamil, 33, 170, MS, SWE, MNC in USA, H1B, I140, $230K, affluent family in Chennai seeks well educated south Indian girl in abroad / India.Caste no bar.Ct 9445442020

CNB BDS Surgeon, MBA (UK) Hospital Mgmt & Health Care, working as CEO in Bangalore Hospital, Divorcee no issues 1981 seeks Rich or PQ Dr/ Engr/ IT bride. V.J.Naidu 9886782390 or 9962246305

AUDITOR/ 46 Chennai/ 30 L p.a Seeks Any Vegetarian, Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

42Y, HANDSOME,FAIR,176CM, non–smoker & teetotaler, Divorced, Legal consultant&Entreprenuer, well settled in Chennai Ph: 9840234030

AGAMUDAIYAR 41 MSc IT Consultant seeks Bride from OBC shunmugavalli@gmail.com Mob – 9445612997

MUDALIAR M.COM 48 1st Marriage 20 Laks PA. Own House Chennai. Seeks Mudaliar 1st Marriage Girl 9444001582

NADAR, RICH 1980, only son B.A, LLB., High Court seeks Dr/ Govt Employed Bride, CNB. Ct: 94888 88819

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 32 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

29YR DOCTOR MD Anesthesia Living in Chennai seeking SC Bride MD/MS Parents 8148000760/9445244717

NADAR, 37, Divorcee no kids M.E, Ph D. Prof. Engg. College, Chennai. 1.2L p/m. Seeks suitable Bride Caste, Religion no bar. Ct: 9443269548

HINDU, 28, Fair and handsome, UK, 10 crores. PH: 9048444858

TAMIL

MBA, DOB:11/1979 Viruchigam, Kettai, 1St Marriage, Chennai Own House.Wanted suitable Bride.Ct: 9383002003

SEEKING INDEPENDENT Divorced (No Child) / Unmarried Bride for 45 Yrs, Well Settled Unmarried Groom, Own House in T.Nagar, Professional, Caste No Bar, Ct: 89250–54774

OUR SON, 29 years Electrical Engineer. Educated bride from a good, pet–friendly family preferred. Veterinary/animal–care professionals welcome. Apply: geethanarayanan72@gmail.com. WhatsApp 7358773357.

REMARRIAGE CHETTIYAR Kannada Devangar Chennai Age:29 Own Company Upper Middle Class Ct:9788663074

HINDU, 44, NRI, 20 crores, VIP. PH: 8138901294

HINDU SENGUNTHAR, Age-31 officer KVB, Born in Moola Nakshathra 4th Padham. Seeks Employed / unemployed girl from decent educated family. Contact: 7598227564 / 9445250564

VELLALAR CENTRAL Govt Officer 38 Swati/Thula seeks 2nd marriage from pillai/Vellalar brides 9597331609

TAMIL PILLAI MCA 45/180CM working MNC in US divorcee no child 6 lakhs per month, looking for a bride from decent fmly. CNB. 98943 44178

HINDU NADAR, 29/168, SWE, 25L pa, from an Educated, Well Settled Nuclear Family Seeks Suitable Bride. Whatsup BHP 9841200165

MUDALIAR 56 Ph.D Aboard return Business divorcee no issues sk suitable bride around 45 age CNB 9500367269

BALIJA NAIDU, 33/175, MBA, Moolam: Thanusu, Fair, Teetotaler, Software Engineer, Income 10LPA, well–settled. Innocent Divorced, Issue Cleared. Seeks educated, fair, well–settled bride without conditions from upper/middle–class family. 9941012116

MUDALIYAR 35 yrs / 165 cm B.Tech Msc, Revathy / Meenam.Well Paid Job in Germany.Ct.9442135216, 8015435216

50YR PILLAI Divorce 180cm Own House &Business Seek Gd Family Gd Character 35–45yr of Bride CNB 9790228185

SC PR Hindu, Oct 87 born, BE., Southern Railways Loco Pilot, seeks Bride. Ct: 94435 83777

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 35yrs, B.Tech, MS, Well Educated Family background Contact: 6385293227

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom

Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only

CT: 93842 76066

BRIDE WANTED

Chettiar / Mudaliyar / Pillai

Seeking bride from similar background for educated handsome boy from affluent family 29/180cm/B.Tech, M.S/ Uthiram / Kannirasi / Working in Bangalore as PM

Contact :

93848-27999

CNB

WELL SETTLED HINDU KONGU BOY

39/183 Sadayam B.Sc MBA Business 48L P.A. Settled in Chennai with Own Flat & Plots. Upper Middle Class. Looking for Girl with any degree in B C / F C Community

WHATSAPP 93603 23979

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MUDALIAR 28/186, Handsome, BTech, MS, PR–Er, Deepmind, UK, 120000 Pounds.PA, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

SC AD 29/B.Tech., MBA, Techno Functional Consultant (WIPRO) 1,40,000p.m. Seeks Bride. Ph :7397674481

REDDY BOY, ME, 46/ Purattadi, religious, non smoker, non alcoholic divorcee, Manager in leading MNC, owning house & flat, 20 lakhs p.a. seeks suitable Hindu bride Ct9985792975

Continued on Page 6

एकात्म धाम
एकात्मता का वैश्विक केन्द्र

मध्यप्रदेश
शासन

॥ सर्वं खल्विदं ब्रह्म ॥

नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री

डॉ. मोहन यादव
मुख्यमंत्री, मध्यप्रदेश

अद्वैत जागरण शिविर 2026

-आचार्यों की दिव्य सन्निधि-

07 - 16 फरवरी
आर्ष विद्या गुरुकुलम्, राजकोट, गुजरात
स्वामी परमात्मानंद सरस्वती
तत्त्वबोध, हिंदी

11 - 20 फरवरी
चिन्मय गार्डन्स, कोयम्बटूर, तमिलनाडु
स्वामिनी विमलानंद सरस्वती
मनीषा पंचकम् , हिंदी

05 - 14 मार्च 32+ आयु
अद्वैत आश्रम, मायावती, चंपावत, उत्तराखंड
स्वामी शुद्धिदानंद
विवेक चूड़ामणि , हिंदी

15 - 24 मार्च
शारदा तपोवन, टिहरी, उत्तराखंड
प्रव्राजिका दिव्यानंद प्राणा
ब्रह्मज्ञानावलीमाला, हिंदी

30 मार्च - 08 अप्रैल
शारदा तपोवन, टिहरी, उत्तराखंड
स्वामी हरिब्रह्मेंद्रानंद तीर्थ
तत्त्वबोध, हिंदी

15 - 24 मई
शारदा तपोवन, टिहरी, उत्तराखंड
स्वामी प्रबुद्धानंद सरस्वती
तत्त्वबोध, हिंदी

01 - 10 जून
चिन्मय इंटरनेशनल फाउंडेशन, वेलियानाड, केरल
स्वामी अद्वयानंद सरस्वती
तत्त्वबोध, अंग्रेजी

09 - 18 जून 32+ आयु
तपोवन कुटी, उत्तरकाशी, उत्तराखंड
स्वामी हरिब्रह्मेंद्रानंद तीर्थ
तत्त्वबोध, हिंदी

11 - 20 जून
अद्वैत आश्रम, मायावती, चंपावत, उत्तराखंड
स्वामी शुद्धिदानंद
विवेक चूड़ामणि , हिंदी

21 - 30 जून
तपोवन कुटी, उत्तरकाशी, उत्तराखंड
स्वामी हरिब्रह्मेंद्रानंद तीर्थ
तत्त्वबोध, हिंदी

21 - 30 जून
चिन्मय इंटरनेशनल फाउंडेशन, वेलियानाड, केरल
स्वामी शारदानंद सरस्वती
तत्त्वबोध, अंग्रेजी

03 - 12 जुलाई
चिन्मय इंटरनेशनल फाउंडेशन, वेलियानाड, केरल
स्वामी अद्वैतानंद सरस्वती
भज गोविन्दम्, हिंदी

14 - 23 जुलाई
चिन्मय इंटरनेशनल फाउंडेशन, वेलियानाड, केरल
स्वामी स्वात्मानंद सरस्वती
आत्मबोध, हिंदी

01 - 10 अगस्त
स्वामी दयानंद आश्रम, ऋषिकेश, उत्तराखंड
स्वामी परमात्मानंद सरस्वती
तत्त्वबोध, हिंदी

13 - 22 सितम्बर
अद्वैत आश्रम, मायावती, चंपावत, उत्तराखंड
स्वामी शुद्धिदानंद
विवेक चूड़ामणि , हिंदी

32+ आयु **16 - 25 सितम्बर**
चिन्मय गार्डन्स, कोयम्बटूर, तमिलनाडु
स्वामिनी विमलानंद सरस्वती
अपरोक्षानुभूति, हिंदी

11 - 20 अक्टूबर
चिन्मय गार्डन्स, कोयम्बटूर, तमिलनाडु
स्वामिनी विमलानंद सरस्वती
दृग-दृश्य-विवेक, हिंदी

11 - 20 नवंबर
चिन्मय तपोवन, सिद्धबाड़ी, हिमाचल प्रदेश
स्वामी मित्रानंद सरस्वती
भज गोविन्दम्, अंग्रेजी

11 - 20 नवंबर
अद्वैत आश्रम, मायावती, चंपावत, उत्तराखंड
स्वामी शुद्धिदानंद
विवेक चूड़ामणि, हिंदी

16 - 25 नवंबर
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स्वामी अद्वयानंद सरस्वती
आत्मबोध, अंग्रेजी

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स्वामी शारदानंद सरस्वती
तत्त्वबोध, अंग्रेजी

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11 आचार्य | 22 शिविर

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पंजीयन

मध्यप्रदेश शासन द्वारा देश-विदेश के 18 से 32 वर्ष के युवाओं एवं
32 वर्ष से अधिक आयु वर्ग के जिज्ञासुओं के लिए **नि:शुल्क**
अद्वैत वेदान्त का अध्ययन एवं अनुभव करने का अद्वितीय अवसर !

D11200/25

आयोजक : आचार्य शङ्कर सांस्कृतिक एकता न्यास, मध्यप्रदेश शासन, संस्कृति विभाग

HC affirms verdict on acquisition of Jamnalal Bajaj trust land for APMC's mega market project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The verdict upholds notifications issued in 1994 to acquire around 270 acres of land belonging to the trust in favour of APMC

A Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka has affirmed a single judge's verdict of upholding notifications issued in 1994 to acquire around 270 acres of land belonging to the Jamanlal Bajaj Seva Trust in favour of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC), Bengaluru, for setting up a mega market.

"The appellants have failed in demonstrating that the order of the single judge is in any manner erroneous and liable to be interfered with by this court," said the Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha.

The Bench passed the order while dismissing the appeals filed by the trust against the single judge's February 3, 2025, verdict of dismissing the two petitions filed by the trust in 1999 and 2000 challenging the land acquisition notifications. The court pointed out to the right of the State to acquire lands for public purposes subject to the same being in compliance with the provisions of the application statues, the Land Acquisition Act in the present case.

The notifications were issued between 1994 and 1999 for acquiring around 170 acres and 100 acres of land in Srigandhada Kaval and Herohalli villages of Bengaluru North taluk and the legal battle between the government and the trust had multiple rounds of litigations earlier before the land tribunal, the High Court, and the Supreme Court.

The Bench also upheld the direction issued by the single judge to the State government to pay the compensation to the trust at the rate as agreed in the meeting held in September, 1999, along with the interest of 12% per annum from the date of award of compensation.

Forensic scientists visit drug-making lab in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) said it had busted a synthetic drug manufacturing laboratory operating clandestinely in Mysuru, a team from the National Forensic Sciences University, Gujarat, reportedly visited the facility in Mysuru on Saturday.

Sources said that two scientists from the university, who visited the facility in the Hebbal police station limits, found traces of Mephodrone (MD) in various equipment found at the lab. The scientists reportedly opined that the 'set up' of the lab was for manufacturing Mephodrone (MD)/synthetic drugs only. "Such set up is not required for manufacturing Phenyl," the sources added.

'Yelahanka flyover must be ready by Sept.-end'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) M. Maheshwar Rao on Saturday directed officials to complete the Yelahanka flyover project on Doddaballapur Main Road by the end of September.

With around 70% of work being completed, the 2-km-long flyover comprises 56 pillars, of which 51 have been constructed.

Of the 447 segments required for the project, 351 have been erected, while 96 segments remain pending.

Mr. Rao instructed officials and contractors to resolve operational challenges, including night-time work restrictions due to ongoing traffic, and accelerate construction to meet the September deadline.

The GBA chief reviewed the 5-km white-topping project on the Hennur-Bagalur Road. One side of the road has been completed for 4 km, with the remaining 1 km expected to be finished within 15 days. He also called for the development of public amenities on BDA land parcels.

A 5-acre site within Hennur is to be transferred to the North Corporation and transformed into a playground, while a 3-acre BDA land parcel in HBR Layout 1st Stage is earmarked for a street vendor zone and a central park.

Mr. Rao further directed officials to take possession of lands for which the Relinquishment Deeds have been issued, bringing them under the corporation's control for development purposes, including road-widening.

The officials have been instructed to prepare a detailed list of all such lands, identify properties yet to be taken over and ensure acquisition.

PSI caught red-handed while accepting bribe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta police arrested a police sub-inspector on Saturday for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹40,000 in connection with the release of a seized car. A case has been registered under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The accused officer has been identified as Chetan Kumar S.S., sub-inspector of the Tumakuru Rural Police Station. The complainant, Nagesh S.K., a resident of Nagadevanahalli, had approached the Lokayukta police alleging that the officer demanded a bribe of ₹5 lakh for releasing a car to its rightful owner. Based on the complaint, the police launched a trap operation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. R MURALEEDHAR, S/o N. Raghavan Nair,** residing at Flat No.B310, 2nd Floor, Global Aura Apartment, Kuliamman Temple, Road, Jalahalli West, Bengaluru-560 015 is the absolute ownerand is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. He has lost/misplaced the Original Confirmation Deed Dated 22.12.2018 Registered as Document No.LAG-1-05012-2018-19 Stored in CD No LAGD270, registered in the Office of Sub Register Rajajinagar (Laggere), Bangalore, pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 31-01-2026 vide Lost Report No.20373972026. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said documents, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **7 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original documents, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.47, Khatha No.429, curved in converted Sy.No.20, situated at Shettyhalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, vide conversion order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(N)155/1989-90, dated: 09-04-1990, presently comes under BBMP T. Dasarahalli Zone, Shettyhalli Sub-Division, Ward No.12,, measuring East to West: on Northern Side 32 Feet, Southern Side 30 Feet, North to South: on Eastern Side 42 feet, on Western Side 45 Feet, Totally measuring 1348.5 Sq. Feet, and bounded on the: **East by:** Property bearing Site No.47/1; **West by:** Property bearing Site No. 48; **North by:** Road; **South by:** Private Property;

ADDRESS OF ADVOCATE:
Mr. KRISHNAMURTHY P, Advocate,
No.11, 1st Floor, MeeraNivas,
North Park Road, Seshadripuram,
Bangalore-560 020. Mob: 9740718436

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IYENGAR VADAKALAI Kowsikam Thiruvadirai DOB: 30/05/1987 MSc Hons be Hons Manager State Bank of India well Groomed, Seeks Compatible Bride. Contact: ramansvb@yahoo.com

LOOKING FOR a suitable alliance for a 37 year old iyer groom, magham Nakshatram, Haritha gothram. The boy is professionally qualified (B Tech, Anna University) and earns 4 lakhs per month, owns a house and a four wheeler in a prime locality in Chennai. Vegetarian brides from any brahmin community are preferred. Contact: 8778979154

Viswakarma Boy, 26 Yrs/169 cm, BTec, MBA, 24 LPA, Contact: 9047755228

✔**Seeking Bride from affluent SOZHIA VELLALAR (PILLAI) family for 27 yrs, 190 cm, handsome MBA Groom, settled in CANADA. Willing to relocate to India if required. Groom in India till Mar 2026. Email: s26091965@hotmail.com Whats-App: +965 97121178**

Adi Dravida PR (SC) MTech IITK from Navi Mumbai working at Bangalore IT 20L 31 years 180 cm looking for suitable Educated Bride preferably from Bangalore/ Mumbai/ Chennai simple Marriage caste No Bar Contact Number + 91-8850942253, Email Id :- vigneshwarsen6@gmail.com

Vanniyakula Kshatriya, Chitirai, BE, M.S(USA), 30yrs, 176cm, Texas USA, work Permit, Family is Financially Well Off, Looking for a like Minded Brides working at USA. Contact: 8122072363, 9884604233.

30, 188 cm, Fair MBA M Sc., Dublin (Ireland) Working Professional seeks Educated Girl willing to relocate in Dublin. Caste no bar Ph: 7708957779 nethajid@yahoo.com

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR 37/169cm BE Software Chennai Visakam seeks bride. Brok excuse. CNB. 93848 59697

THULUVA Vellala Mudaliar / Naidu 33 / 182 cm , B.E, Teetotaler, well settled Chennai based wealthy family seeks suitable bride. Ph: 98410 36017

TELUGU

HINDU REDDY 41 191 cms issueless divorce MDS dentist working in private in Chennai 1 lakh/mth seeks tall bride CNB ct 9384003929

BALIJA NAIDU, 1985/180cms, Kritigai, Whitesh, MBA, IT Director in Dubai seeks suitable bride – decent family with BHP ct: 9840633177

REDDY, SWATHI, 29/183 BE, MS London, Business, divorced seeks educated, good family background girl. Naidu's also welcome. Ct: 9710933159

BALIJA NAIDU, Age–47 Unmarried MBA, Rohini / Rishabam MNC 19L PA. Chennai. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9094035781

NAIDU 30/185 Handsome, BE, PhD, SF Engr, ARM Holdings UK, 150000. Pounds.PA, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

URDU

URDU MUSLIM Groom 27/150 BE SWE Reputed Company, Banglore. Seeks Working Bride. 8540070259.

DOCTOR PARENTS, Sunni Urdu, seek Medico Bride for their Doctor son pursuing MD Post Graduation, Fair 26/178cm. absash25@gmail.com

NO DEMAND BUSINESSMAN 48/BBA, seeks any marital status below 47 bride, Email:– rishtachennai3@gmail.com

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

Tamil, 32Yrs, Son, ME, MBA 17 LPA; Daughters, 29Yrs, B.Tech, MBA 13 LPA, IT & 26 Yrs Bsc seek suitable Bride & Grooms, CNB, Ct:9441677205

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

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- CONSULTANTS
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- LANGUAGES
- OVERSEAS STUDIES
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- VACANCIES
- GENERAL
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VACANCIES

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Interested and eligible candidates can apply with the updated resume and bio-data to reach us (inspireyngminds@gmail.com) on or before 10th of February '26.

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Science Officer -for research & science project initiatives and student support. Research scholar in any core discipline of science with Research background as PG with or without M.Phil. / Doctorate. Salary will be based on expertise and experience!

Sports Director (Men only) - for heading, planning, taking forward sports & games agenda of the school. Should be PG, Experienced as Physical Director for minimum 3 years. Good in spoken and written English. Salary will be based on expertise and experience.

Interested and eligible candidates can apply with the updated resume and bio-data to reach us (rkishore@sjps.edu.in) on or before 10th of February'26. Personal Interview will be held on **Sundays - Morning slots / Afternoon slots. Date of Joining will be 1st of June '26.**

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(Central Council for Research in Siddha, Chennai, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India)
Anna Govt. Hospital Campus, Arumbakkam, Chennai – 600106, E-mail: crisiddha@gmail.com
Phone: 044-26214925, 26214809, Web: http://crisiddha.tn.nic.in

Advt. No. 1/2026 **Project Staff Recruitment**

Applications are invited for the selection of **Research Associate** (Computer Science), **Senior Research Fellow** (Biotechnology) and **Project Associate** (Botany) - one number each under the IMR Project titled **"Integration of Computer Vision with DNA Barcodes for Authentication of Widely Used Plant-Based Raw Drugs included in Scheduled Books of Siddha"** through Personal Interview. The date of the interview will be notified later through the mail for the eligible candidates. The last date for submission of the online application is **15.02.2026** (05:00 P.M.) Further details are available on the website **https://ccrs.ayush.gov.in.**

Assistant Director (Siddha), Sci - IV & Officer Incharge

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Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s particular that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Canara Bank, the possession of which had been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank under Section 13(4) of the Act will be sold by E-Auction as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and applicable interest, Charges and cost etc as detailed below.

The Property described below is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", AND "WHATEVER THERE IS"** under rule no.8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the rules) for the recovery of the dues detailed as under:

1) M/s Shiva Enterprises (Proprietorship Firm), Kenchana Kuppe, Bidadi, Ramanagara District, Karnataka - 562109. **2) Proprietor Cum Mortgagor: Sri Shivananjaiah B** S/o Boraiah, MIG III, KHB Colony, Bidadi, Ramanagara District, Karnataka - 562109 **3) Guarantor Cum Mortgagor: Smt. Prema T M** W/o Shivananjaiah, MIG III KHB Colony, Bidadi, Ramanagara District, Karnataka-562109

The Total Amount Due: Rs. 97,69,382.56 (Rupees Ninety Seven Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Two and Fifty Six Paise Only) as on **30-01-2026** together with further interest, costs and expenses with further interest and charges due to contact **Canara Bank, Specialised ARM Branch, No.40, 1st Floor, Statue Square, Mysuru.**

Description of the immovable assets: Property -1 : All That Part And Parcel Of The House Property Bearing Kaneshumari Katha No. 3, MIG-I, Situated At Bidadi Housing Board, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and District, Karnataka - 562109. **Measuring : East To West -26.24 Feet, North To South - 49.20 Feet, Total Measuring -1291 Square Feet. Bounded By: East -** LIG No. 21, 22 & 23, **West -** Road, **North -** MIG-I, B. No.4, South- MIG-I, B. No. 2.

Property -2 : All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kaneshumari Katha No. 4, MIG-I, Situated At Bidadi KHB Colony, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka - 562109. **Measuring : East To West - 15 Meters, North To South -8 Meters, Total Measuring - 120 Square Meters. Bounded By: East -** LIG-II D, House No. 23 & 24, **West -** Road, **North-** MIG-I, House No. B-5, **South-** MIG-I, House No. B-3.

Property -3 : All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kanesumari No. 1219/825/82, Site No. 82, Situated At Yogeshwara Layout, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka-562109. **Measuring : East To West - 30 Feet, North To South - 40 Feet Total Measuring - 1200 Square Feet Bounded By: East -** Site No. 81, **West -** Site No. 83, **North -** Site No. 79, **South -** 25 Feet Road.

Property - 4 : All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Bearing Kanesumari No. 450/46, Former Survey No. 156/15, Situated At Kenchanakuppe Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Karnataka - 562109. **Measuring : 10 Guntas Bounded By: East -** Land Of Gomatappa, **West -** Land Of Kariyappa, **North -** Land Of Guddaiah, **South -** Land Of Mylarappa.

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

The details regarding E-Auction are Mentioned below:

Date and Time of E-Auction	05-03-2026 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM	
Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Reserve Price (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
Property - 1	Rs. 54,00,000 /-	Rs. 5,40,000/-
Property - 2	Rs. 45,00,000 /-	Rs. 4,50,000/-
Property - 3	Rs. 36,18,000/-	Rs. 3,61,800/-
Property - 4	Rs. 1,96,02,000/-	Rs.19,60,200/-
Bid Factor	Rs. 50,000/-	
Date & Time of Inspection	04-03-2026 at On or before 4 PM	

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager, Specialized ARM Branch, Mysuru, Canara Bank – C Vamsikrishna, Ph. No. 9848702166 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 01-02-2026
Place : Mysuru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

Office of the Commissioner
Ballari City Corporation, Ballari.
Gadigi Chennappa Circle(Royal Circle) Ballari-583101
Landline No : 08392-273479 /278168
Website : www.ballaricity.mrc.gov.in
E-mail ID: ka.ballari.cc@gmail.com

No:CCB/ENG/ELE/LABOUR/TP/2025-26 Dt. 30.01.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal Only)

Tenders Are Inivited Under General fund 2025 in Ballari City Corporation Limits Through KPP Portal, as per Standared Document From The Eligible Contractors for The Following Works 1) DMA/2025-26/SE6870/CALL-3, Rs.96.95 Lks, Last Date Of Submission Of Tender On 09.02.2026 At 17.00 Hours, Opening Of Technical Bid On 10.02.2026 At 17.30 Hours, Technically Qualified Bidders Financial Bid Opened On 13.02.2026 At 11.00 Hours. The rate quotation also invited for the 2021-22 Savings work as SR rate not avialabele for the Music Bollard pole, amplifier and speaker cable & last date for submission is 05.02.2026 (Specifiction format to be collected from the Office). Transaction Fee & EMD Should Be Remitted In KPP Portal, http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For Further Details Contact This Office During Working Days.

Sd/- Commissioner, Ballari City Corporation. Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/952/KSMCA/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
Email : dhoukannada@gmail.com Ph : 08382-226339. Fax: 08382-222452
ನಂ: ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ–1/181/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–01–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ವಿಷಯ : ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧೀನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಿರುವ ENT ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸಲಕರಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತು.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಧೀನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಿರುವ ENT ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸಲಕರಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಈ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್: ವಿವರಗಳು: (1) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ 2%: ರೂ. 1,06,000/– (2) ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಆರಂಭ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30–01–2026, ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.00 ಘಂಟೆಯಿಂದ (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಕೇಪಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಕ್ಕೇಪಣೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06–02–2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.00 ರಿಂದ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 03–00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (4) ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–02–2026 ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5–30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ (5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09–02–2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11–30 ಘಂಟೆ (6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 53,00,000/– ಮಾತ್ರ

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಉ.ಕ ಕಾರವಾರ.

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1019/25-26 dt. 31.01.2026

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I AT BENGALURU
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House,
Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.

O.A. No. 1447 of 2016

Punjab National Bank
RMV Extension Branch, Bengaluru. ... Applicant

Versus

(1) M/s. Bright Enterprises, A Proprietorship Concern of Ram Bhupal Reddy (since deceased)
(2) Smt. Malleswari
(3) Kumari. Sandhya
(4) Kumari. Kavya and
(5) Shri. Lalith Kumar Bhandari ... Defendants

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION.

To :

(D-1) M/s. Bright Enterprises, A Prop. : M. Ram Bhupal Reddy (since deceased), having its place of business at No. 53/1, 4th Main Road, S.S.A. Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru - 560 054.
(D-2) Smt. Malleswari, Aged about 36 years, W/o. Late M. Ram Bhupal Reddy.
(D-3) Kumari. Sandhya, Major, D/o. Late M. Ram Bhupal Reddy.
(D-4) Kumari. Kavya, Major, D/o. Late M. Ram Bhupal Reddy.
Address of Defendant No.s 2 to 4, viz., Residents of Bandaruchetlapalli Village, N.P. Kunta Post, Ananthapuramu District, Andhra Pradesh.

WHEREAS the applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against Defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 47,44,641.00 Ps.,** as mentioned in the Original Application (O.A.) together with current and future interest and for other reliefs. You are hereby requested to show cause within 30 days of the publication of summons / notice or **on 3-3-2026 at 10.30 a.m.** in person or by a Pleader / Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this 30th day of January, 2026.

By Order of the Tribunal
Registrar,
Debts Recovery Tribunal - 1, Bengaluru - 560 001.

Many promotee IAS officers from Karnataka reluctant to attend ITP at Mussoorie

Only one officer is going for ITP, starting on Monday, while the remaining 25 whose names figure in the list have not even submitted requests to the government for permission to attend

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A file photo of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. A total of 26 promotee IAS officers from the State have been nominated for the ITP-2026.

Many officers promoted from State Civil Service (Karnataka Administrative Service and others) grade to Indian Administrative Service (IAS) grade seem to be reluctant to attend the Induction Training Programme (ITP) at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie.

A total of 26 promotee IAS officers from the State have been nominated for the ITP-2026. However, only one officer is going for ITP, while the remaining 25 have not even submitted a request to the government for permission to go. Seven officers who were promoted in 2016 have not attended the induction programme to this day.

The 128th ITP will be held from February 2 to March 13. The duration of the course will be six weeks, comprising four weeks of in-house training and two week of study tour.

"All the officers on the list sent by LBSNAA were asked to participate in the ITP. However, only one officer has taken permission from the government and is going," said Jagadeesha K.G., Secretary, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR). Among 26 officers from Karnataka, seven officers were promoted in 2016, two in 2018, four in 2019, eight in 2020 batch, three in 2021 and two in 2022.

How it is filled

For IAS, about 60% of the posts are filled through Civil Services Examination (CSE) conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). About 36% is filled by State Civil Service (SCS) and 4% of the Non-SCS officers are those who are promoted to IAS. Officers who have completed at least eight years of service in SCS are eligible for promotion.

However, ITP is mandatory training for promotee officers (SCS and Non-SCS Officers) to be confirmed into IAS as per IAS (Probation) Rules, 1954. The ITP is organised by the Ministry of Personnel, public Grievances and pension Department of Personnel and Training (Training Division) at LBSNAA, Mussoorie for those who have been directly recruited to IAS and those who have been promoted from SCS.

"It is compulsory for officers of the SCS who have been promoted to the IAS to undergo ITP. The aim of the programme is to equip the officers with an all-India perspective of governance issues and to develop certain core skills and attitudes required for administrators in the current context of public management," reads the LBSNAA letter. A total of 547 officers from across the country, including 26 officers from Karnataka, have been nominated for ITP this year. "Around 150 officers from different States are expected to participate in this training programme on first-come-first-serve basis. This is a one-time opportunity for these officers who have been inducted into IAS to undergo this training," stated letter.

The reason

A senior IAS officer attributed reluctance to go to ITP to paranoia that they will lose their posts while they are away.

"After being promoted to IAS, many officers get good posts. They do not want to leave those posts. ITP lasts for about one and a half months. Most officers do not go for ITP as they are worried that the government may transfer someone else to that post during this gap," he said.

"Many promotee IAS officers in the State have retired without attending ITP. Since ITP is mandatory for IAS officers and a confirmation notification is issued only after they complete training, in reality, many of the promotees are in reality not IAS officers at all," he stated. He added that their posts remain intact as long as they remain within the State and do not go for any Central deputation.

Private transport federation urges State to move Supreme Court against bike taxi order

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations urged the State government to challenge the High Court order permitting bike taxi operations by filing a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the Supreme Court.

In a statement on Saturday, the Federation said the High Court judgement could have negative consequences for public safety and transport regulation. It warned that allowing bike taxis without a clear legal framework could create confusion in the transport system, policy making, and also endanger passengers.

The Federation argued that the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, neither recognises bike taxis as a separate category nor permits motorcycles to be treated as motor cabs. It pointed out that motorcycles lack basic safety features and are therefore unsuitable for commercial passenger transport.

Citing police data and medical opinions from NIMHANS, the Federation said two-wheelers account for nearly 70% to 85% of road accidents. It also raised concerns over reports of bike taxi accident victims being denied compensation and insurance cover, leaving passengers vulnerable. It warned that permitting bike taxis could increase accident rates, undermine regulated transport services such as autos, taxis and buses, and pose enforcement challenges.

28-year-old convicted in POCSO case in Chickballapur

The Hindu Bureau
CHICKBALLAPUR

The Additional District and Sessions Court in Chickballapur sentenced a 28-year-old truck cleaner to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹50,000 in a case involving the abduction, child marriage and sexual assault of a minor girl.

The convict has been identified as Lakshman, 28, a cleaner by profession and a resident of Gondipalli village, Bagepalli taluk, Chickballapur district.

During the course of investigation, the minor girl was traced on June 3, 2022 at the house of the accused's relative.

Based on her statement and the evidence collected, it was found that the accused had abducted the minor, and subjected her to repeated sexual assault.

REGIONAL DEPUTY REGISTRAR (HOUSING) SALEM
CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY PROPERTIES FOR SALE
e-TENDER NOTICE

S.No.	Tender Reference	Property Details
1.	ECOBSL/AA377/2026	THE ELAVAMALAI CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING SOCIETY LTD., Owned Property at Erode District, Perundurai Taluk, Mugasipidariyur Village in Kumaran Co operative Nagar Layout Vacant House Plots for Sale. Contact : 9994361990 & 0424-2230788
Tender Document Available		https://tntenders.gov.in
Bid Submission Start Date and Time		01-02-2026 09:00 AM
Bid Submission End Date and Time		16-02-2026 09:00 AM
Bid Opening Date and Time		17-02-2026 10:00 AM

DIPR/130/DISPLAY/2026 — DEPUTY REGISTRAR (HOUSING), SALEM

மத்திய சித்த மருத்துவ ஆராய்ச்சிக் குழுமம்
(ஆயுஷ் அமைச்சகம், இந்திய அரசு)
ஜி.எஸ்.டி. சாலை, தாம்பரம் சானடோரியம், சென்னை–600047.
केंद्रीय सिद्ध अनुसन्धान परिषद्
(आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
जी.एस.टी. रोड, तांबरम सानटोरियम, चेन्नई - 600047.
CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN SIDDHA
(Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India)
GST Road, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai – 600 047.
Phone: 044-2621 2421, 2621 1621, e-mail: ccrs-ayush@gov.in, www.ccrs.ayush.gov.in

Advertisement No. 01/2026

Central Council for Research in Siddha (CCRS) a Central Autonomous Body under the aegis of Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India invites applications for the following regular posts for CCRS, HQ. & Peripheral Institutes / Units:

Sl. No.	Name of the Posts	No. of Vacancies	Pay Level / Pay Matrix (7th CPC)	Maximum age
1.	Research Officer (Siddha)	**02** - EWS	Level - 10	40 Years
2.	Research Assistant (Chemistry)	**02** - UR	Level - 06	30 Years
3.	Medical Laboratory Technologist (MLT)	**09** - (ST-01, UR-03, EWS-02 & OBC- 03)	Level - 06	35 Years
4.	Laboratory Attendant	**01** - EWS	Level- 02	25 Years

The last date for receipt of the applications will be **60 days** from the date of this advertisement in Employment News released on 31.01.2026. The details regarding the educational qualifications, experience, proforma of application, other terms and conditions etc. are available at the Council's website: **www.ccrs.ayush.gov.in** / **www.siddhacouncil.com.** Any addendum / corrigendum of the said advt. will be published in the website only.

01.02.2026 — **Director General, CCRS.**

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THE HINDU GROUP

DESIGNING A KERALA THAT EVERYONE CAN EXPERIENCE

Kerala is redefining tourism through inclusive design and accessible infrastructure. Rooted in global best practices and lived experiences, the state is shaping dignified, comfortable, and independent travel for everyone, without barriers. This conclave brings together ideas, policies, and diverse voices to shape the next phase of Kerala Tourism.

A Knowledge Conclave by **Kerala Tourism & The Hindu Group**

Inaugural address by
Shri Pinarayi Vijayan
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala

kerala God's Own Country PRESENTS
Kerala FOR ALL
tourism without barriers
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HINDU

DAY 2

February 1, 2026 | Grand Hyatt, Kochi

10:30 am onwards
Inaugural Address by Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala
Keynote Address by N Ram, Director, The Hindu Group

12:30 pm - 1:20 pm
Vision Kerala for All: Shaping the Future of Kerala Tourism
Suman Billa IAS & Biju K IAS in conversation with S Anandan

1:20 pm - 2:20 pm
Lunch

2:20 pm - 3:00 pm
Seeing Travel Differently: Navigating the World without Sight
Tiffany Brar in conversation with Vijaya Kumar K C

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Accessibility Isn't Charity, It's India's USD 1 Trillion GDP Booster
Presentation by Sminu Jindal

3:30 pm - 4:20 pm
Gender Inclusivity at the Heart of Tourism
Sikha Surendran IAS, Dr Peeja Rajan, Monolita Chatterjee & Soity Banerjee in conversation with Saraswathy Nagarajan

4:20 pm - 4:50 pm
Inclusive Tourism through a Neurodiverse Lens
Presentation by Najmul Melath & Sivadas A K

4:50 pm - 5:40 pm
Accessible Hospitality: Rethinking Hotels, Resorts and Public Venues
Ganga Dileep, Jose Dominic & Dileep Kumar P I in conversation with Saraswathy Nagarajan

5:40 pm - 6:30 pm
Digital and Tech Innovation in Inclusive and Accessible Tourism
Anoop Ambika, Saidarshan Bhagat & Robin Tommy in conversation with Soma Basu

6:30 pm - 7:20 pm
International Spotlight: How Leading Countries Built Accessible Tourism Circuits
Chironjit Ganguly & Priyantha Peiris in conversation with Varghese K George

Knowledge Partner: Svayam Celebrating Accessibility

Scan to watch the event live or log into
https://newsth.live/KFALSDT

A BG-BGE

Migrant waste collectors lose jobs amid repeated travels

Many workers say failing to appear for verification could mean losing voting rights, facing difficulties in proving residence identity, and accessing welfare schemes, among other government benefits

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

Several workers say they would not travel again for verification and were willing to take the risk, as repeated absence from work could cost them their jobs. FILE PHOTO

SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION

After travelling four times to West Bengal for Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, many sanitation workers employed through private contractors and agencies linked to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) were removed from the garbage collection work, with contractors saying their repeated absence was affecting daily waste collection across apartment complexes. Many others, meanwhile, have decided not to go, fearing job and wages loss.

Several workers, *The Hindu* spoke to, said they would not travel again for verification and were willing to take the risk, as repeated absence from work could cost them their jobs. "We do not have paid leave, and staying away for several days, even if on a contractual basis, means being replaced to ensure garbage collection continues, with no assurance of being taken back once we return," Mohammed Mehroon, a garbage collector in Varthur, said.

Possible implications

Many other workers, however, acknowledged the dilemma, as failing to appear for verification could have wider consequences. "If a person's name is removed, it can affect voting rights and create difficulties in proving residence and identity. For us labourers, removal from the list has wider problems, including accessing welfare schemes, ration cards, and other government benefits, which are already a challenge to access," said Sameer Rahman, a garbage collector in Panathur.

Anis Ur Rahman Sheik, a sanitation worker engaged in garbage collection at a premium apartment complex in Thubarahalli, Whitefield, for the past six years, said he travelled twice after receiving notices but could not afford to go again.

"I neither have the money nor can I risk losing my job," he said. He added that the notices did not clearly explain the reason for repeated verification, and pointed out that the names of all 12 members of his family appeared on the 2002 electoral rolls.

Osman Ali, employed at a different apartment complex in Varthur, said he travelled once and returned to work after nine days, only to receive another notice in the next four days, asking him to report again for verification.

He said he has not been able to return to work since. "I received the notice on January 17 and was asked to report by January 19. It is impossible to travel thousands of kilometres in less than 48 hours," he said.

Costly travel

He said he borrowed money and booked a flight to Kolkata on January 19, the verification date, spending ₹12,700, but the verification is not yet completed. "From that day, I have been waiting with four of my brothers who also received notices and could not return," he said. He added that his co-workers told him that his work might not remain by the time he returned, as he had to be immediately replaced due to the scale of waste collection at the apartment complex.

Several organisations, including Swaraj India and the Karnataka Bengali Kalyan Samiti, have begun conducting awareness drives to explain the verification process and its implications to workers, so that they do not skip the exercise without understanding its possible consequences, said Kaleem Ullah, a national executive member of Swaraj India.

Coffee harvest slows down as migrant workers leave for SIR

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

If harvesting is delayed, the cherries either over-ripen or dry and fall to the ground, where they get damaged and cannot be used. FILE PHOTO

Coffee picking across parts of Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu has slowed down during the peak harvest season after a large section of migrant labourers returned to West Bengal for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) verification exercise. The sudden labour shortage has pushed up wage demands from the remaining workers, leaving planters caught between the risk of crop damage if harvesting is delayed and the burden of higher labour costs.

The period between November and March is the peak harvesting season for Robusta coffee, when labour requirement is at its highest and timing is critical, N. Bose Mandanna, former Vice-Chairman, Coffee Board of India, said. He added that coffee cherries have to be picked at the right stage of ripeness, but the process has become a hurdle as many migrant workers have returned to their native districts for over 10 days for the verification process. If harvesting is delayed, the cherries either over-ripen or dry and fall to the ground, where they get damaged and cannot be used, leading to losses.

"The quality goes out immediately if fruit is not picked on time," he said, adding that when the fruit is harvested at the correct time, the pulp extracted during processing is of the best quality, which gets farmers higher prices, and that any delay directly affects the quantity harvested and the quality of coffee produced.

Untimely rains

Adding to the disruption caused by workers leaving for the SIR verification, Abhishiek Ponnappa, a planter and representative of Kodava Coffee Growers, said untimely rainfall in parts of Karnataka and Kerala this January have created a double whammy for the farmers. The rains prevented coffee plants from drying properly, while continuing harvesting under wet conditions risks damaging the plants and affecting the next year's crop. Usually, migrant workers return to their home states either before the coffee harvest begins or after it ends in March. This time, however, labour shortage was a challenge throughout January due to SIR verification, as workers began receiving notifications and left within extreme short notice, Harish Maharishi, who owns a plantation in Mudigere, Chikkamagaluru said.

In Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu, local workers are largely unavailable in plantation areas, as the growth of tourism has absorbed much of the local workforce, leaving coffee estates heavily dependent on migrant labour, planters said. Producing one tonne of Robusta green coffee beans requires about 4,500-4,700 kg of coffee fruit. In Indian conditions, an average acre of Robusta yields around 600-700 kg of fruit. At the usual harvesting rate of ₹5 per kg, and assuming a picker harvests about 200 kg a day, it would take roughly 15-17 labourers to harvest one acre of a Robusta plantation, Mr. Mandana explained.

Rising wages

Another concern during large-scale labour shortages is a sharp increase in wage demands, planters said. Under regular conditions, Robusta pickers are paid ₹4-₹5 per kg because the variety allows large volumes to be harvested in a day. The coffee picked by each worker is weighed, and wages are calculated accordingly. An average worker, Mr. Mandana explained, earns ₹476.11 a day, but those who pluck 200-250 kg can earn ₹800-₹1,200 in a single day. When labour becomes scarce, workers, as planters said they are witnessing now, demand higher rates of ₹7-₹8 per kg, which sharply increases the cultivation cost, leading to a difference of at least ₹600 per worker per day for the same quantity of coffee picked.

AI-driven surveillance to strengthen prison security

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 20-member staff at the centralised control rooms will oversee surveillance operations. K. MURALI KUMAR

Karnataka Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Saturday inaugurated a Central Command Centre for prisons in the State, a step towards foolproof security checks in State prisons. The initiative is part of a comprehensive, technology-driven surveillance and management plan rolled out by the Karnataka government to strengthen prison security and monitoring.

The plan focuses on enhanced inmate monitoring, crowd control, and tracking staff movements through advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, and checks any untoward incidents in the prisons across the State, Mr. Parameshwara said adding that this system will also ensure discipline and high alertness among the staff as they will be under a constant watch. He pointed out that contraband entering prisons was primarily due to staff negligence and asserted that strict vigilance could prevent such lapses. "Nothing should enter prisons unnoticed. It is the responsibility of the staff to ensure this," he added.

Explaining the key highlights of the centre, Mr. Paramseshwara said that 1,076 cameras with AI-based Intrusion Detection System will be installed in 332 prison blocks across Karnataka to detect unauthorised movements and security breaches. Crowd analysis technology will monitor prisoner gatherings and staff movements to prevent disturbances and jailbreak attempts. A round-the-clock surveillance will be ensured in all sensitive prison areas through upgraded monitoring systems, he said.

A 20-member staff at the centralised control rooms will oversee surveillance operations, enabling real-time response to emergencies. Lock-up and unlock procedures will be digitised to minimise human error and prevent misuse.

Regular audits and inspections will be carried out to assess compliance and system efficiency, sources said.

Officials said the initiative aims to modernise Karnataka's prison infrastructure, improve transparency, and enhance safety for inmates, staff, and visitors. The circular mandates immediate implementation of the measures across all central, district, and sub-jails in the State. Mr. Parameshwara announced that the Chief Minister had approved recruitment in the Prisons and Correctional Services Department, noting that no major recruitment had taken place for several years. "Immediate steps will be taken to fill vacancies," he said.

BU invites application for PhD programmes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore University has invited applications for admission to the PhD programmes for the academic year 2026-27. Applications can be submitted online from February 2.

Last date

The last date to apply without a late fee is February 28, while March 7 is the final date to submit applications with a late fee. For more details, candidates may visit the website: https://www.bangaloreuniversity.karnataka.gov.in.

Government of Karnataka
Department of Collegiate and Technical Education
NO. 1, Unnatha Shikshana Soudha, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Phone: 080-22223906, email: dce.tenders2017@gmail.com

No.: DCE/ITS/PUR/25/2025-INFO (Computer No.201039) Date: 31.01.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner for Collegiate and Technical Education, Bangalore hereby invites bids in Two-Cover system through e-Procurement portal from eligible bidders for the following Tender. The Tender Documents with detailed terms and conditions may be obtained from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Tender Schedules are as below

Sl. No.	Tender Name & Number	Date of Floating Tender on e- Procurement Portal	Date and Time of pre-bid meeting	Last date and Time for bidding through eprocurement portal
1.	**Tender No: DCE/2025-26/IND0072/Call-2** "Supply, Installation and Maintenance of ICT Equipment to Government First Grade Colleges under Component -8 and Component 9 of RUSA 2.0"	31/01/2026	02/02/2026 11.00 AM	09/02/2026 5.30 PM
2.	**Tender No: DCE/2025-26/IND0073/Call-2** "Supply, Installation and Maintenance of UPS to Government First Grade Colleges under Component -8 and Component-9 of RUSA 1.0 & 2.0"	31/01/2026	02/02/2026 11.00 AM	09/02/2026 5.30 PM

DIPR/CP/5356/NR/2025-26

Sd/-
Director of Collegiate Education, Bengaluru

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, FEB. 01	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:20
RISE 17:55	SET 06:10
MONDAY, FEB. 02	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:21
RISE 18:54	SET 07:00
TUESDAY, FEB. 03	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:21
RISE 19:49	SET 07:45

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	30	14
Bengaluru	29	15

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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Eight PGs sealed, over 570 receive notices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 574 paying guest (PG) accommodations received awareness notices from the Central Corporation following inspections were carried out across the corporation limits to verify if PGs are complying with the prescribed guidelines.

Of the total, eight PGs that failed to maintain proper kitchen hygiene were sealed. Moreover, the corporation also imposed penalties amounting to ₹3.09 lakh throughout the month-long drive for various violations and deficiencies reported within PGs across Shantinagar, C.V. Raman Nagar, Gandhinagar, Shivajinagar, among other areas.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-77/1873/2025-26 Date: 31.01.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the works of :

Name of the Works : (1) Re surfacing of Roads in Narasapura Housing Layout, Narasapura Industrial Area, Kolar District. **(2)** Upgradation of Road, Re construction of RCC Side Drains, Culverts & SWD in Antharanasanahalli Industrial Area, Phase-2, Tumakuru Taluk & District. **(3)** Formation of Road, Construction of RCC Side Drain & Construction of Spur Culvert at Dobaspet 3rd Phase Industrial Area, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. **(4)** Formation of Industrial Layout including construction of Roads, RCC Side drain, Cross Drainages, Retaining wall & HDPE Dual Water Supply pipe line at Sector-1 in Dobaspet Industrial Area, 7th Phase, Nelamanagala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.02.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5351/ZEN/2025-26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/PMC/EPTND-EP-15/1875/2025-26 Date: 31.01.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender under Quality Based Consultancy System (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following work :

Name of the Work : Project Management Consultancy Services for the work of Reconstruction of 18m wide & 12m wide road including asphalting construction of RCC side drains at Attibele Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **12.02.2026** upto **04.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5282/NR/2025-26

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About 60% of backward taluks are in North Karnataka

The most backward taluks are concentrated in Kalaburagi division, followed by Belagavi division, says the Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee in its report

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee (2026), headed by economist M. Govinda Rao, which submitted its report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday, highlighted that 60% of the backward taluks are concentrated in north Karnataka. The most backward taluks are in Kalaburagi division (42%), followed by the Belagavi division (34%).

In terms of the number of backward taluks, Belagavi division has the largest share (33.7%), followed by Kalaburagi division (26.1%). Both in terms of the numbers and in terms of the intensity of backwardness, north Karnataka has the largest concentration of backward taluks, said the report.

Noting that "Karnataka is a State of contrasts," it said, "Curiously, the high growth performance has not fully translated into commensurate improvement in social indicators. This is mainly because the increase in income is concentrated in only a few districts, and large parts of the State still suffer from acute backwardness."

Chairman of the Committee on Regional Imbalance, M. Govinda Rao submitting the final report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Najunadappa panel

The earlier Nanjundappa Committee on regional imbalance in 2002 had recommended an outlay of ₹31,000 crore to be spent to overcome the infrastructure deficit in 114 backward taluks. Until 2022-23, ₹43,453.98 crore was allocated, ₹35,380.24 crore released, and the actual expenditure was ₹32,610.24 crore.

The Rao Committee observed that the sectoral allocation of funds was substantially at variance with the recommended allocations. It noted that district-level, not taluk-level, expenditure amounted to 6.1% of the total expenditures. "More importantly, poor implementation is seen by the fact that information relating to almost 11.2% of the funds allocated to the taluks has not been received from the taluks by the Special Development Plan division," it observed.

Status of new taluks

Another important finding is that of the 61 new taluks, 51 are in the most backward category, two in the more backward category, five in the backward category and three in the developed category.

Among the 20 taluks with the lowest Comprehensive Composite Development Index (CCDI), 17 are new taluks. Overall, 13 are in Kalaburagi division, six in Belagavi division, and one in Mysuru division.

"If we look at the taluks with the highest CCDI values, 15 of the 20 taluks are in either the Mysuru or the Bengaluru divisions. Of these, 11 taluks are in the Mysuru division, and the remaining four are in the Bengaluru division. Of the remaining five, four are in the Belagavi division and only one is in the Kalaburagi division," it said.

How they moved

Of the 39 most backward taluks in 2001, 24 continued in the same category, 11 moved into the more backward category, three made a transition to the backward category and one qualified into the developed category.

Among the 40 more backward taluks in 2001, 13 deteriorated to most backward, 15 remained in the same category, nine improved to the backward category and three qualified as developed.

Among the 35 taluks which were classified as backward in 2001 by the HPC-I, 16 remained in the same category, six became more backward, three moved to most backward and 10 moved into the developed category.

In the case of the 61 taluks considered developed in 2001, 47 remained in the same category, 10 moved back to the backward category, two became more backward and two deteriorated to the most backward category.

The panel recommended an additional allocation of ₹43,914 crore from 2026-27 to 2031-32 for the backward taluks and districts

For equitable development

Additional financial allocation recommended for redressal of regional imbalance from 2026-27 to 2031-32 (₹ in crore)

- Agriculture and allied activities 2,000
- Irrigation 10,000
- Industrial Development 2,000
- School Education - New schools (4,604) and permanent teacher appointment 7,840
- Higher Education 500
- Skill Development 250
- Healthcare 11,770
- Nutritional Supplementation 1000
- Tourism 1,000
- Urban Development 1,450
- Road Connectivity 1,500

Total 43,914

'Avoid taking up new irrigation projects'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee (2026), headed by economist M. Govinda Rao, has recommended that the State government avoid taking up new irrigation projects until existing ones are completed.

The committee observed that higher financial allocations alone do not guarantee improved development outcomes in backward taluks unless they create conditions for sustained growth.

Despite spending ₹32,610.24 crore up to 2022-23 based on the recommendations of the D.M. Nanjundappa Committee (2002), many taluks in North Karnataka, particularly in the Kalaburagi and Belagavi regions, continued to lag behind.

The panel advised the government to prioritise completion of irrigation projects with at least 75% progress by allocating funds sequentially. It highlighted the Upper Bhadra Project, designed to irrigate 2.25 lakh hectares, as a key initiative for employment and income generation in backward taluks and recommended supporting it under the additional ₹2,000 crore allocation proposed for the irrigation sector.

It criticised the State's approach of launching multiple irrigation projects simultaneously, leading to funding constraints and stalled projects without tangible benefits. The committee emphasised that rebalancing development requires empowering people in backward regions.

Improving rural livelihoods requires raising farm productivity, particularly in the most backward and predominantly agrarian regions. It recommended greater focus on water harvesting, development of water bodies, efficient water use and crop diversification, especially in North Karnataka.

Panel for abolition of Malnad and Bayaluseeme boards, overhaul of KKRDB

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee (2026), headed by economist M. Govinda Rao, has reviewed the functioning of regional development boards such as the Malnad Area Development Board, Bayaluseeme Development Board, Karavali Development Board, Karnataka Border Area Development Authority, and Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB), and found that they have not made the desired impact in redressing backwardness.

The panel said the Malnad Board and Bayaluseeme Board, working for more than three decades, have not made contributions to overcome infrastructure issues and recommended their abolition.

The panel recommended revamping the Regional and District Planning units in the Planning Department to work with the Zilla Panchayats in preparing the District Development Plans to redress the backlog in different social and physical infrastructure within the next five years.

The panel said that KKRDB, established in 2013 under Article 371 (J) of the Constitution to address regional imbalances, should be overhauled in view of operational failures and poor fund allocation.

It said that various apex-level committees under it are non-functional, and there was inordinate delay in the works' implementation. "The ad hoc nature of planning and the Annual Action Plan submitted by KKRDB to the government has not specified targets to be achieved," the report added.

The panel opposed the Board's allocation of funds to the universities and said the Higher Education Department should ensure funds to universities. The panel also noted serious shortcomings in the allocation to projects made by the Board during the period from 2013-14 to 2024-25.

Funds allocation

The report noted that of the total allocation of ₹19,694.31 crore during this period, 50.8% was for roads and bridges. The share of education was 29.3%, health 6.9%, and water supply 2.1%. All other sectors received less than 1%. The share of irrigation was as low as 0.7%, agriculture 1% and tourism 0.6%.

It said the KKRDB's spending plan had no connection with the prioritisation indicated in the Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa committee report (2002).

On schools and teachers

On schools, it said Kalaburagi division has 6,590 schools and about 17,274 teacher vacancies in elementary schools and 4,107 vacancies in secondary schools. "It is important to rationalise those schools having no enrolment and consolidate those with less than 25 children," the Rao panel suggested.

More Funds

In 2025-26, the government allocated ₹5,000 crore to the KKRDB, and their productive use will depend on advance planning and implementation of projects, the panel said.

The panel also recommends that the assistance should continue to be provided to the Kalaburagi division in the next five years to get comparable status in infrastructure development.

The panel said the assistance of ₹5,000 crore to KKRDB should be increased by 5% every year to adjust for inflation so that by 2030-31, the grant amount increases to ₹6,381 crore, totalling ₹29,009 crore from 2026-27 to 2030-31. The panel said, "This expenditure should be in addition to the regular expenditure on various services incurred by the State."

Key recommendations to KKRDB

- Make changes in industrial, agricultural, human development, tourism, ecology and energy policies
- Fill vacancies with regular, well-trained teachers
- Work with full capacity of 29 people, including five experts
- Have advisory council in place to take decisions on projects
- Board Secretary should plan and carry out the functions
- Discontinue discretionary allocations
- Take up skill development on priority

Had fruitful meetings with many firms in Davos: M.B. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Industries Minister M.B. Patil on Saturday said he had a 30 minutes interaction with Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran at Davos last week, besides bilateral talks with 46 multinational and Indian companies, investors, etc,.

He indicated the discussions were centred around Tata Group's potential future investments in Karnataka across various sectors, speaking to reporters about the highlights of his recent ministerial delegation visit to World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland.

"Tata already has significant investments in Karnataka, including decades-old investments and recent investments including in the MRO business. Tata is a highly respected company and we want much more investments from Tata Group in Karnataka," Mr. Patil said.

Talking about other highlights of the visit, he said he had bilateral engagements with 46 global and Indian companies, investors, country leaders and diplomats at the WEF at Davos.

Under 46 different engagements, comprising 25 multinational companies and 15 Indian companies, the delegation met firms that operate in the areas of aerospace and defence, advanced manufacturing, beverages and food processing, space tech, life sciences, data centre and digital infrastructure and clean energy, he said.

Minister for Large and Medium Industries M.B. Patil addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Saturday.

No MoUs signed

Responding to media queries Mr. Patil said, "There were only discussions on investment intents but no Memorandum of Understanding were signed at Davos, as planned."

According to Mr. Patil, the delegation consciously decided not to sign MoUs at Davos because his government wanted global investors to personally visit Karnataka and see for themselves the potential the State has in terms of resources, talent pool, supportive policies and overall positive environment for investment.

Giving an update on business conversions from Global Investors' Meet held in February last year, Mr. Patil said, GIM had closed with ₹10.27 lakh crore in commitments and an estimated potential for over 6 lakh jobs. "In 11 months itself, we saw 46% conversion as a project move into on-ground investments filings with Karnataka Udyog Mitra and also some 58% of these investments are in the manufacturing sector," he elaborated.

Mr. Patil further said, the State in the last 11 months also secured ₹1.1 lakh crore fresh investments, which were not routed through GIM, across manufacturing, renewables, data centres and GCCs.

"Apart from these, we have a strong near-term pipeline of ₹1.5 lakh crore and these are led by ESDM/semiconductors, auto and RV manufacturing and aerospace and defence manufacturing," the Minister said.

Union Budget 2026: Growers expect climate-linked insurance cover for coffee

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Planters' Association (KPA), an apex body representing growers in the coffee heartlands of Chikmagaluru, Hassan, and Kodagu, which account for more than 70% of India's entire coffee production, has strongly demanded the inclusion of coffee farms under a weather-linked crop insurance plan.

M. Salman Baseer, chairman of KPA, told *The Hindu* that the apex body has been requesting the government to include coffee under a climate-linked insurance plan, considering the crop are being badly hit by droughts or floods year after year.

The Union government should make regulatory changes and include coffee, tea, and rubber under PMFBY, wherein 80% to 90% of premiums are paid by governments, say planters.

Excessive rain

"We hope the upcoming Budget will hold some good news for coffee farmers in Karnataka in this regard," anticipated Mr. Baseer, adding that incessant and excessive rains over the last several years have caused havoc on coffee plantations, resulting in significant crop- and plant losses in Karnataka.

Pradeep Poovayya, a coffee farmer from Kodagu and an executive committee member of the Coorg Planters' Association, said currently, coffee, rubber, and tea are not covered under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), which provisions 80% to 90% of premium payments by the governments. "These crops come under the Ministry of Commerce and not the Ministry of Agriculture. This is an unfair classification. While black pepper, coconut, arecanut, and paddy are covered under PMFBY, coffee is not," Mr. Poovayya highlighted.

Arvind Rao, former chairman of KPA, also noted, "Coffee farming in India is completely dependent on rain and shine. However, unpredictable and extreme weather adversely impacts production, and that has been happening every year for the last many years."

Input and labour costs

According to Rana George, Managing Director of Kelachandra Coffee, which grows Robusta and Arabica across 7,000 acres of land, climate volatility, rising input and labour costs, and new export compliance requirements are increasing pressure across the value chain.

"The Indian coffee sector needs support that strengthens growers while elevating India as a premium global origin. The Budget can make a meaningful difference through focussed investments in climate resilience, crop advisory and irrigation support, research on high-yield and climate-tolerant varieties, and easier access to long-tenure credit for replantation and farm modernisation," Mr. George added.

Policy-based approach

Mr. Poovayya said farmers' lands were often subject to the vagaries of nature, such as fire, floods, landslips, and earthquakes. However, the government only offered short-term relief instead of having a policy-based approach.

"We want regulatory changes to ensure coffee is included under PMFBY, and climate-related crop and land losses should be covered under the National Disaster Relief Fund," he said, adding that farmers currently receive a meagre ₹35,000 (a sum fixed several decades ago) per hectare of farmland lost and ₹7,000 per acre for crop loss.

"These are fixed based on archaic calculations," Mr. Poovayya said.

CM launches campaign for fair tax share

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day ahead of the Union Budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched "Justice for Karnataka – Fair Share, Strong Federalism" campaign and released nine posters highlighting the State's long-standing demands, including the restoration of the tax share, reduced from 4.71% to 3.64% in Central tax devolution.

Among the other key demands are correcting the "flawed formula" of penalising development and population control and restoration of the use of 1971 population data in tax sharing, reduction in income distance weightage from 45% to 25%, setting right "the unrealistic GSDP base-year methodology" as IT exports inflate the State's GSDP and distort fair comparisons.

The government mooted the adoption of a Panchayat devolution index in fund allocation for effective governance in local governments. It also sought a special package of ₹10,000 crore for the backward Kalyana Karnataka region, special grants for ecology, farmers and irrigation projects, and an increase in the State's share of taxes to 50% and a cap on cess at 5 per cent.

YSRCP leader's remarks on Naidu trigger violence

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

The war of words between the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) over the alleged adulteration of ghee used by the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams to prepare laddus spiralled out of control in Guntur city.

Abusive remarks allegedly made by former MLA and YSCRCP leader Ambati Rambabu against Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu triggered violence, with angry activists of the ruling party attacking the former legislator's house and threatening him for making objectionable comments.

Mr. Rambabu announced on Friday that he would pull down a flexi banner erected by the TDP at Gorantla highlighting the ghee adulteration issue, while dismissing Mr. Naidu's Chief Minister's statements made in late 2024 as baseless and politically motivated.

On Saturday, after performing a ritual at a temple, Mr. Rambabu attempted to proceed to the spot where the banner had been erected. But TDP activists stopped his vehicle, leading to a confrontation. Police personnel, who had been deployed in anticipation of trouble, intervened to pacify both sides. During the tense exchanges, Mr. Rambabu allegedly made further derogatory remarks against the Chief Minister, which further angered the TDP workers.

Stalin slams Centre for 'dismantling' MGNREGA

He signals a political and legal battle against the Centre's policy, which he terms a 'deceptive ploy'

C. Palanivel Rajan
SIVAGANGA

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Saturday accused the BJP-led Union government of "betraying" rural workers and attempting to erase the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi by replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with a new scheme.

Inaugurating the Government Law College at Karaikudi in Sivaganga, he signalled a fierce political and legal battle against the Centre's policy, which he called a "deceptive ploy".

Mr. Stalin accused the Union government of intentionally removing Mahatma Gandhi's name from the scheme and replacing the demand-based 'right to work' scheme with a system based on discretionary allocation.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at an official function after inaugurating the Government Law College at Karaikudi in Sivaganga district on Saturday. L. BALACHANDAR

"They could not provide even 50 days of work under the existing law, and now they are promising 125 days of work. It is a trick, pure illusion," he said. Mr. Stalin voiced concern that the new scheme would place 40% of the financial burden on the States. "This is a punishment for Tamil Nadu's success in poverty eradication. Because our State has performed well, the Centre is trying to slash our benefits and force us to pay more. We will not be a silent spectator," he said.

Mr. Stalin warned that the people of Tamil Nadu would compel the Union government to withdraw the decision.

Using the Union government's Economic Survey to reject Governor R.N. Ravi's criticisms, he pointed out that while the Governor had frequently criticised the State's industrial climate, the Centre's report ranked Tamil Nadu first in the manufacturing sector employment and praised its women-centric labour policies. "The Governor should read the reports provided by the Union government before making criticism," he said.

15.91 lakh applications received for Kerala SIR

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A little over 15.91 lakh people have applied so far for enrolment after the start of the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral roll in Kerala. The deadline for the claims and objections period ended on January 30 in the State.

The total number included 13.70 lakh applications filed through Form 6 and 2.21 lakh applications through Form 6A, according to data released by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (Kerala). Form 6 is for new voters, while Form 6A applies to overseas electors among Indian citizens. Of these, 3.72 lakh Form 6 applications and 32,925 Form 6A applications filed prior to the publication of the draft roll on December 23, 2025.

"All claims, objections, and applications received during this period will be scrutinised and disposed of in accordance with the prescribed procedures, and approved applications will be incorporated in the final electoral roll to be published on February 21," CEO Rathan U. Kelkar has said.

Citizens can continue to submit applications/forms even after the January 30 deadline.

On Thursday, the CEO's office announced that 12,462 people had been excluded from the rolls. This included people who had passed away during the SIR enumeration phase, individuals who had relinquished Indian citizenship and those who had shifted to other States or constituencies.

Meanwhile, the ruling Left Democratic Front will take out protest marches to the Kerala CEO's office in Thiruvananthapuram and election offices in districts on February 2 seeking correction of the reported anomalies in the voters' list published following the SIR.

Kerala plans to cut 25% syllabus in schools

The Hindu Bureau
KOLLAM

Kerala General Education Minister V. Sivankutty has announced plans to reduce the academic workload of school students.

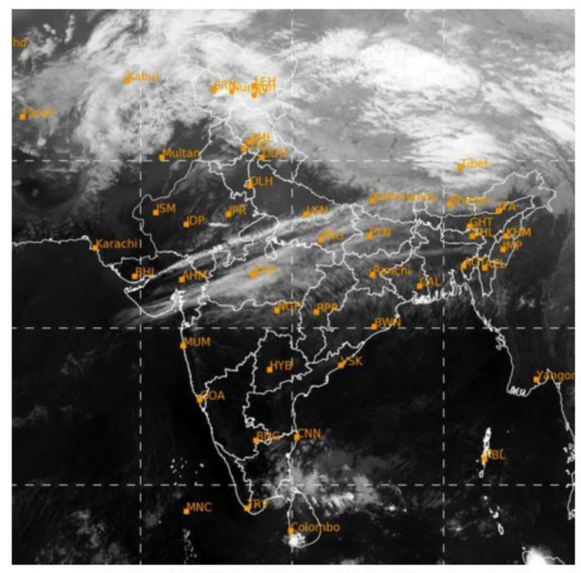
"The Curriculum Committee has approved a 25% reduction in the syllabus for various classes without changing the textbook content. This will be implemented from next academic year," said Mr. Sivankutty in Kollam on Saturday, while attending an event organised to hand over a house constructed for the family of Mithun, a student who died of electrocution from a power line near Thevalakkara Boys High School last year. Built upon the Minister's direction, the Kerala State Bharat Scouts and Guides spent ₹20 lakh to construct the 1,000-sq-ft house at West Kallada in Kollam.

Mr. Sivankutty added that Kerala is the first State to introduce medical insurance coverage for students from Classes I to XII. "This coverage is provided without collecting any premium contribution from the 43 lakh students in the State. The scheme provides financial assistance of up to ₹3 lakh for fatal injuries and up to ₹20,000 for outpatient treatment," he said.

He also pointed out that approximately four crore textbooks were distributed on time and the textbooks for Class XI students for next academic year will be ready for distribution within three weeks.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm with hailstorm/lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Dense fog likely at isolated places over Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.2	12.4	Kozhikode	—	33.4	24.0
Ahmedabad	—	30.8	18.6	Kurnool	—	33.0	19.2
Aizawl	—	25.8	13.0	Lucknow	—	18.7	8.8
Allahabad	—	22.7	9.0	Madurai	—	33.0	19.4
Bengaluru	—	29.4	15.4	Mangaluru	—	34.5	21.5
Bhopal	—	26.6	12.0	Mumbai	—	29.5	21.7
Bhubaneswar	—	29.6	16.8	Mysuru	—	30.2	14.0
Chandigarh	—	20.7	7.7	New Delhi	—	21.5	6.7
Chennai	—	30.3	20.2	Patna	—	22.0	12.2
Coimbatore	—	31.6	18.0	Port Blair	—	30.6	25.3
Dehradun	—	25.1	7.4	Puducherry	—	29.3	19.4
Gangtok	—	15.2	8.4	Pune	—	31.8	19.9
Goa	—	32.5	21.0	Raipur	—	31.3	17.2
Guwahati	—	25.7	12.5	Ranchi	—	25.8	12.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	16.0	Shillong	—	16.5	6.1
Hyderabad	—	28.6	18.6	Shimla	—	16.6	6.5
Imphal	—	25.5	5.8	Srinagar	—	10.8	-0.1
Jaipur	—	23.0	12.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.3	22.4
Kochi	—	30.8	24.6	Tiruchi	—	30.5	18.6
Kohima	—	17.4	7.2	Vijayawada	—	29.4	20.2
Kolkata	—	26.7	16.6	Visakhapatnam	—	29.8	21.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	111	108	51	182	176	
Bengaluru	6	21	38	119	179	
Chennai	9	18	—	81	131	
Delhi	10	226	89	389	386	
Hyderabad	5	12	72	114	128	
Kolkata	20	41	35	190	159	
Lucknow	7	36	65	136	278	
Mumbai	15	55	46	132	107	
Pune	—	55	2	286	191	
Visakhapatnam	3	34	24	207	144	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bhiwadi, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 349 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 31

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Joint Commissioner, Zone-1, Mayo Hall, Mayo Hall Premises, Bengaluru-560001
No.: BCCC/JC-1/TEND/10/2025-26 Date: 31.01.2026
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through KPPP Portal) Two Cover System
The Joint Commissioner (Zone-1), BCCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors from registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation or equivalent registration with Labour Department or Related Department or any State Government Organizations for the work as detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Description of the work
1	Providing services for Mapping of buildings and campuses using Total Stations & documenting floor wise land utilization area statements. Including all Taxes and Services. **EMD: 1,00,000/-**

Time Schedule: (1) Tender document may be downloaded from the KPPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka from **06.02.2026**. **(2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **12.02.2026** at **4:00 p.m.** in the office of the Joint Commissioner-1,BCCC, Residency Road, Mayohal Premises, Bengaluru. **(3)** Tenders must be submitted online through kppp portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **20.02.2026** and the opening of tenders will be as per e procurement portal guidelines. **(4)** Technical Bids will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the office of the Joint Commissioner zone-1, BCCC, Bengaluru on **24.02.2026** at **4.00 p.m.** Further details can be obtained from the above office during working hours or from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-, Joint Commissioner, Zone-1, BCCC

BANGALORE UNIVERSITY
Jnanabharathi Campus, Bengaluru – 56
No: EX-II/Ph.D. Entrance-Non Entrance/2026 Date: 31.01.2026
PRESS RELEASE
Bangalore University invites Application for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programme 2026 in the prescribed form from the eligible candidates are required to appear for Entrance Test and those who are exempted from taking Entrance Test have to submit their duly filled application. To download Application Form and other details regarding fees, vacancy, procedure for admission etc., candidates shall visit the university website **www.bangaloreuniversity.karnataka.gov.in.**
a) Online Application Forms Available on the Website : **02.02.2026**
b) Last date to apply without fine : **28.02.2026**
c) Last date to apply with fine : **Rs. 200/- : 07.03.2026**
d) Last date to submit hard Copy of Application (to respective Departments) : **11.03.2026.**
The Filled Application Form along with proof of fee paid and enclosures shall be sent online and one copy of the filled in Application Form with related documents shall also be sent to the Chairperson/Director, (Concerned Department) Jnanabharati Campus, Bangalore University, Bengaluru-560 056 on or before **11.03.2026 at 5.00 p.m.** by hand/by speed post/courier. Application shall be downloaded only from the website and they will not be provided in the office.
DIPR/CP/5352/Zen/2025-26 **Sd/- REGISTRAR (EVALUATION)**

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INNOVATE KARNATAKA — K-tech
Request for Proposal (RFP)
RFP NOTICE No: ITBTST/2025-26/SE0039/CALL-2
The Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT and Bt, is inviting proposals for the **"Selection of Implementation partners for Digital Art Centers (DAC) 2.0 initiative in Karnataka"** In this regard, KITS invites proposals from qualified agencies in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP).
Interested agencies are required to download the soft copy of the Request for Proposals and upload their proposal (in PDF format) on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** using the bidder's Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).
Any notices or information related to this Request for Proposals in the future will be available exclusively on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
The application period starts on 01-02-2026 and ends on 02-03-2026, at 4:00 P.M. Please refer to the Request for Proposals document for eligibility criteria and other conditions.
Sd/-
Managing Director
KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-22231008
E-mail: aenain.kits@gmail.com
DIPR/CP/5330/AKAR/2025-26

DEPARTMENT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS
Podium Block, V.V.Tower, Ground Floor, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560 001. Telephone No. 080-22866066, 080-22866046
Email Address: **dirdwdscka@gmail.com, dir-dwds-ka@nic.in**
No: DEDASC/STAFF/C1/14/2025-26 Dated: 31.01.2026
SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)
Tender is invited by the Director, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, under e-Procurement platform/e-portal in two parts (i.e., Technical bid and Financial bid) from the original manufacturers or their authorized dealers for supply of 554 Sewing Machine for the Hearing Impaired persons for the year 2025-26 to the Department for Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens. The interested bidders may see further details and may login in website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
The tender can be submitted on or before **07.02.2026 till 05.00PM**. The technical bid will be opened on **09.02.2026 at 11.00 AM** and the financial bid will be opened on **11.02.2026 at 02.00 PM**. Department reserves all rights to accept, reject, incorporate changes and retender without giving any reasons. The details can be obtained from the Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Podium Block, V.V. Tower, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, Phone No:080-22866066, 28860907. For more info please see department website **www.dwdsc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Director,
Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/5358 Zen/2025-26

राष्ट्रीय न्यायालयिक विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय
(राष्ट्रीय महत्त्व का संस्थान, गृह मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
NATIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCES UNIVERSITY
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
ADMISSION NOTICE (2026-27)
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES
MBA & BBA-MBA Integrated Program
- **Admission to MBA Programs** - will be based on the merit of CAT 2025 score and/or the percentage obtained in the qualifying graduate degree.
- **Admissions to BBA-MBA Integrated Program**- will be based on the merit of CUET 2026 score and/or the percentage obtained in the qualifying (10+02) examination.
- For eligibility and other details visit **www.nfsu.ac.in**

Sd/-
Executive Registrar

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಅಚ್ಚುಕಟ್ಟು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಕಾವೇರಿ ಜಲಾನಯನ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು–ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನಂ–2 ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾಡಾ, ಕಾಜಯೋ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ 1ನೇ ಹಂತ, ಮೈಸೂರು–17
ದೂ:0821–2414090 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : eecada2mysore@gmail.com
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:25/2025–26 ದಿ:29.01.2026
(Through KPPP Portal only)
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕಾಡಾ, ಕಾ.ಜ.ಯೋ. ಮೈಸೂರು ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ.02 ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾ.ಡಾ.. ಕಾ.ಜ.ಯೋ.. ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವರು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಎರಡು ಆಯಕಟ್ಟು ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು KPPP portal ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (KW-3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ರನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅರ್ಹತೆಗೆ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅವಶ್ಯಕ ಪ್ರಮಾಣ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಕ್ಯಾನ್ ಮಾಡಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿವುದು. ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡೌನ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.01.2026 ರಿಂದ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕ್ವೇರಿಸ್/ಕ್ಲಾರಿಫಿಕೇಷನ್ಸ್ ಗಾಗಿ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:06.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.02.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ನ್ನು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡ ನಂತರ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ : 1. ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ/ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.
2. ಮುಂದೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಿ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ನಂ.2 ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾಡಾ, ಕಾಜಯೋ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ಹಿಸಸಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/742/2025–26

N.W.K.R.T.C., BAGALKOTE DIVISION, BAGALKOTE.
No/NWKT/BGK/TR/COMM/198/26 Dt: 30-01-2026
e-Tender Notification No: 01/2026
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Inviting e-tender applications for Commercial Establishments, Vacant Lands and Cleaning Contract (under "Pay & Use" system) in the jurisdiction of Bagalkote Division Bus stands premises.
Interested parties may participate through the portal **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** within stipulated date and time as mentioned. For more details **contact No: 7760991762 & 7760991752.**
Last Date & Time for submission of tenders: 19-02-2026 at 05:30 PM
Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: 21-02-2026 at 11:00 AM
DIPR/DeshpandePublicity /Bgk/544/2025-26 **Sd/- Divisional Controller, NWKRTC, Bagalkote Division**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

K. VIJAYALAKSHMI
7.12.1943 - 30.1.2026
Loving mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother
Deeply mourned by
S. Krishnaswamy, Venugopal, Parthasarathy, Arundhati, Abhirami, and the grandchildren
9962586778

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

REMEMBRANCE
He taught us to walk

Dr.A.Ganesan, M.A. Phd.,
Former Vice Principal
Saraswathi Narayanan College, Madurai.

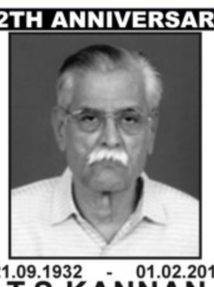
XL AUTO
XL TYRE POINT
SWAMY AUTOMOBILES
MARUTI SUZUKI

REMEMBRANCE

Wg Cdr (Retd)
JACOB ANTHIKAD
Arrived Sept 1, 1938 - Departed Feb 1, 2015
"You vacated your earthly abode since eleven years; Your absence is marked by a cascade of tears; Your memory is an eternal flame; Which glows at the mention of your name"

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

12TH ANNIVERSARY



21.09.1932 - 01.02.2014
T.S.KANNAN
I.A. & A.S (Retd.)
Former Chairman & Managing Director, Richardson &Cruddas (1972) Ltd.
Chairman
National Small Industries Corp.
Executive Director, Ashok Leyland.
Family & Friends
"The quiet sense of something lost"

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
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From Page One

Sunetra Pawar sworn in as Maharashtra Dy. CM

In this screenshot from a video dated January 17, 2026, Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar during a meeting held at Baramati on potential reunification of their parties. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated Ms. Pawar following the swearing-in. "I am confident she will work tirelessly for the welfare of the people of the state and fulfil the vision of the late Ajitdada Pawar," Mr. Modi posted on social media.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Patel and Mr. Tatkare met Ms. Pawar at Devgiri, joined by a few other NCP leaders. None responded to queries about the proposed reunification of NCP and NCP (SP).

'Merger was to be announced on Feb. 12'

Mr. Pawar said earlier in Baramati that reunification talks between Ajit Pawar and NCP (SP) leaders had been going on for the last six months but were halted due to Ajit Pawar's accident. When asked if he was open to joining hands with the BJP he said, "What is the relation of the BJP? In the talks we had (between Ajit Pawar and NCP (SP) leaders), there was no discussion about it." The statements are significant against the backdrop of the differences within the NCP and between the NCP and the NCP (SP), over the issue.

After Ajit Pawar's sudden demise, several leaders from the NCP factions demanded reunification. "Both Praful Patel and Sunil Tatkare want to change things here and decide everything hurriedly to keep Pawar Saaheb out of it," a senior NCP leader told *The Hindu*, requesting anonymity.

An NCP (SP) leader asked why the oath-taking ceremony was held when the entire State was still mourning over Ajit Pawar's death.

Sources close to the Pawar family said that they were glad that they were neither a part of the process nor were they invited to the event. NCP (SP) leader Jayant Patil claimed that his party leaders had met Ajit Pawar several times, and had planned to announce the merger on February 12.

Contact re-established with terrorists in Kishtwar: Army

Three JeM terrorists believed to be hiding in the area since January 18; Army, J&K police, CRPF re-established contact with them early on Saturday, narrowing the search; Internet suspended

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

The Army has "re-established contact" with a group of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists who have been hiding in the upper reaches of Kishtwar since an encounter with security forces on January 18, narrowing the search to a specific area. Three terrorists are believed to be holed up in the region.

The Army has launched Operation Trashi-I to track down the terrorists.

Contact was re-established in the early hours of Saturday in the general area of Dolgam, by troops of the Army's White Knight Corps, the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force, according to an Army spokesperson.

"Intelligence from all sources had been coordinated to provide inputs to execute the operation on ground. A cordon has been established and operations are in progress," the Army said.

Lt. General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding, Northern Command, reviewed the counter-terrorism grid and operational preparedness in Kishtwar amid ongoing anti-terror operation, an Army spokesman said.

"The Army Commander, while interacting with the ground commanders and the ever committed troops, commended them for their unwavering resolve in the ongoing efforts," the Army said.

Security forces have spotted and engaged terrorists in gunfights at least three times this month, in Kishtwar's Singhpora, Chingam, and Chatroo, in the Chenab Valley of Jammu division. This is the fourth time in the past fortnight that contact has been established with the terrorists in the area.

One soldier was killed on January 18, when security forces and terrorists exchanged fire in the Singhpora forests.

A terror hideout in the forest, busted by the security forces, had cooking gas cylinders and large quantities of eatables on the slope of a cliff. The hideout was later blasted by the security forces.

Internet suspended

Officials said mobile Internet services have been temporarily suspended within a six-kilometre radius covering Singhpora, Chingam, and Chatroo, to prevent misuse by anti-national elements during the ongoing operation.

Lt. General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding, Northern Command, during a review of operational preparedness and counter-terror grid in Kishtwar of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. PTI

'Pak. drone' spotted; search launched

Press Trust of India
JAMMU

Security forces launched a search following the sighting of a drone, suspected to be from Pakistan, along the International Border (IB) in Samba district of J&K on Saturday, officials said.

The drone briefly hovered over Indian territory along the IB near Chillyari village, they said, adding that it returned towards Pakistan after hovering for a couple of minutes along the border.

A search was conducted by the police and security forces in the village and nearby areas following the drone movement to ensure that there were no airdrops of weapons or narcotics, officials said.

Thousands of people take part in a 'Save Manipur' rally in Manipur capital Imphal on Saturday. PTI

Thousands rally over Manipur's territorial integrity

Press Trust of India
IMPHAL

Thousands of people held a rally in the Manipur capital, Imphal, on Saturday to assert their stand that the territorial and administrative integrity of the State could not be divided at any cost.

The "Save Manipur" rally was organised by the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), an umbrella body of several Meitei civil society organisations.

Following the ethnic conflict in the northeastern State, the Kuki community has been demanding a separate administrative mechanism for its members.

At least 260 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in the ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and hills-based Kuki-Zo groups in Manipur since May 2023.

The State has been under President's Rule since February last year.

During Saturday's rally, the agitators marched from the Tiddim ground to the Thau ground, covering a distance of 5 km.

They raised slogans and held placards that read, "No compromise to Manipur's territorial and administrative integrity", "No attempts should be made to divide Manipur", and "Resettle the IDPs [Internally Displaced Persons] to their home".

Demonstrators also included people from non-Manipuris, Muslims and Naga communities, along with Meiteis.

"We are participating in this rally to reiterate our stand that Manipur's territorial and administrative integrity must not be broken at any cost. We cannot compromise on this," Bidyaluxmi Oinam said.

Another demonstrator, Khagembam Surjit, said, "The land of Manipur was built by our forefathers, and not by illegal immigrants from Myanmar."

Security has been tightened across the capital.

Taking forward the comprehensive plan to end Gaza conflict a shared priority: Jaishankar

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Ending the violence in the Gaza Strip is a "shared priority" for the world, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Saturday, welcoming representatives and Ministers at the second India-Arab Foreign Ministers' meeting.

Delivering the inaugural address at the meeting, which came ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's expected visit to Israel later this month, Mr. Jaishankar expressed India's support for ending the violence in Gaza as well as in other regions such as Sudan, Libya and Lebanon.

"Taking forward the comprehensive plan to end the Gaza conflict is today a widely shared priority. Various countries have made policy declarations on peace plan, individually or collectively. This is the larger context in which we deliberate on the region's challenges and prospects," said Mr. Jaishankar. He also mentioned the attempts at peace building in Gaza during the October 2025 Sharm-el-Sheikh Peace Summit, which was followed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2803 that supported the idea of a 'transitional administration' and authorised the setting up of an International Stabilisation Force (ISF) for ending the conflict that has killed at least 72,000 Palestinians.

India started 2026 by engaging major powers in the Arab world in security and foreign policy dialogue. On January 19, New Delhi hosted UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. It was followed by a meeting in Riyadh between Indian and Saudi Arabian officials on security matters. India's presence in conflict-hit Yemen has also witnessed some improvement as India opened a facility in Yemen's Aden last October. The conflict in Yemen also found mention in Mr. Jaishankar's speech, where the threat posed by the Houthis to international shipping was indirectly mentioned as an "additional implication" of the conflict in Yemen.

Mr. Jaishankar said multiple conflicts in the Arab world stretching from Libya to Sudan to Gaza "impacts us all, and India as a proximate region".

The second India-Arab Foreign Ministers meeting was attended by a number of foreign ministers and representatives from the Arab world.

Narendra Modi, centre, with the Foreign Ministers and delegations of the Arab League, in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, left, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval are seen. PTI

India denies Epstein claim of U.S. role in PM's 2017 Israel visit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Epstein had linked a Modi-Trump meeting on June 25 to 26, 2017 to PM's Israel visit from July 4 to 6

The Union government on Saturday denied the contents of newly released emails from the late financier and sex-offender Jeffrey Epstein, which claimed that U.S. President Donald Trump had played a role in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel in 2017, referring to the mails as "trashy ruminations by a convicted criminal".

In more than a dozen mails and phone messages released by the U.S. government on Friday, Epstein referred to India and Mr. Modi, expressing a desire to enhance U.S.-India engagement. He claimed he would set up a meeting with the Prime Minister for Trump associate Steve Bannon, shortly after the 2019 general election. Epstein also appeared to be engaged in correspondence with businessman Anil Ambani about many of these issues.

The Opposition, including the Congress, called for an explanation from the government regarding the allegations, terming them a "national shame".

Epstein had linked a Modi-Trump meeting on June 25 and 26, 2017 to the PM's subsequent Israel visit from July 4 to 6 that same year, claiming that the Israel visit had "worked" because Mr. Modi had followed the advice of the U.S. President.

"We have seen reports of an email message from the so-called Epstein files that has a reference to the Prime Minister and his visit to Israel," the MEA spokesperson said in a statement on Saturday. "Beyond the fact of the Prime Minister's official visit to Israel in July 2017, the rest of the allusions in the email are little more than trashy ruminations by a convicted criminal, which deserve to be dismissed...," the spokesperson added.

From Puri to Epstein

The emails were part of about three million pages released by the U.S. Department of Justice as part of its investigation into Epstein's operations.

They included an email from Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri to Epstein in November 2014, detailing reasons why it would be important to engage with India after Mr. Modi's election. Neither he nor the MEA commented on it.

The MEA's statement came in response to a specific email sent by Epstein on July 6, 2017, purportedly advising an influential Qatari person by the name "Jabor Y", who is reportedly close to the Qatari royal family, on being more vocal against terrorism. "The Indian Prime Minister Modi took advice and danced and sang in Israel for the benefit of the U.S. President," Epstein said in the mail sent on the day Mr. Modi's visit to Israel ended.

Trinamool Congress MP Sagarika Ghosh called the email "shocking and shameful", calling on the government to provide "clarity".

Bihar CM seeks CBI probe into student death

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday urged the Centre to hand over the investigation into the death of a National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) aspirant in Patna on January 11 to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The move came a day after the parents of the girl met Bihar Director-General of Police (DGP) Vinay Kumar at his residence, alleging that the police were trying to hush up the case by denying sexual assault and claiming that it was a case of suicide. High drama was witnessed outside the residence of the DGP during the meeting.

On Friday, the mother of the girl told the media that the investigation was not being conducted properly and alleged that the police were not acting impartially. She also said that attempts were being made to suppress the case.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted on January 16 on the orders of the State government, soon after the postmortem report dated January 12 surfaced in the public domain. It noted "physical injuries and marks of violence on the body", and stated that "sexual violence cannot be ruled out".

On January 25, Patna Senior Superintendent of Police issued a press note stating that on January 10, the family members of the deceased provided some of the clothes of the girl to the police, which were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) following due legal procedure.

PDP prevented from protesting against shawl seller's assault

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The Opposition People's Democratic Party's (PDP) protest march over the thrashing of Kashmiris outside Jammu and Kashmir was thwarted by authorities here on Saturday.

Carrying placards seeking an end to the thrashing of Kashmiris outside J&K, PDP leaders assembled at the party headquarters in Srinagar. However, PDP leaders said the security forces disallowed them to step outside the office premises.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti reacted sharply to the police action. "When a young Kashmiri shawl seller is almost beaten to death in Uttarakhand, no one comes to his rescue. But when the PDP attempts a peaceful protest, the entire police machinery is unleashed to crush the march," Ms. Mufti said.

She said Kashmiris were caged within J&K and thrashed when they step out to earn a living. "Where are Kashmiris supposed to go from here? Are they even allowed to exist in New India?" she added.

Odisha Cabinet clears ₹17,250-cr. manufacturing complex project

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi chaired a Cabinet meeting on Saturday, approving an integrated automotive, aerospace and defence equipment-component manufacturing complex proposed by Kalyani Group in Dhenkanal district, involving an estimated investment of ₹17,250 crore.

The project, to be developed over 1,100 acres at Gajamara, will include a speciality steel unit by Kalyani Steel, a super alloy project by Saarloha Advanced Materials Private Limited, and an industrial component casting and forging unit by Bharat Forge, the State government said in a statement.

Mohan Charan Majhi

Job generation

Addressing a press conference after the Cabinet meeting, Chief Secretary Anu Garg said the project is expected to generate more than 4,800 direct and about 5,500 indirect jobs during construction and initial operations, with total employment projected to exceed 20,000 as vendor parks and ancillary ecosystems scale up.

The government said the project would strengthen Odisha's position in strategic materials such as titanium and speciality steel, boost downstream value addition within the State, and reduce dependence on imports for critical components and advanced materials.

Assam CM dragging SC into his anti-*Miya* narrative: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Gaurav Gogoi

Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi on Saturday said that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had gone quiet after being reminded that he was dragging the Supreme Court into his anti-*Miya* narrative.

Miya, a respectful term elsewhere in India, is a pejorative used often in Assam to mean Bengali-speaking Muslims or people from Bangladesh who entered the country illegally.

The Chief Minister, on January 29, asserted that the Bharatiya Janata Party government would continue to cause trouble to the *Miya*, and that they did not have the right to vote in Assam. He said his statements were grounded in the observations made by the Supreme Court. He also cited the court's "warning of a silent and demographic invasion of Assam".

Mr. Gogoi said the Chief Minister had "become quiet" after he publicly raised the issue of contempt of the Supreme Court. He also said the rest of the BJP ran on "rhetoric and screenshots" and ran "the risk of contempt too".

The Jorhat MP pointed out that when a court cited a report relied on by a party, it did not make the language of that report the court's "own words".

'Clear case of contempt'

"Attributing it to the Supreme Court is a clear case for contempt," Mr. Gogoi said, adding that the court's said observation was related to former Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's case that led to the scrapping of the controversial Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunal) Act.

The court's observations were being twisted to create a misleading narrative, he said.

Mr. Gogoi said that misrepresenting the Supreme Court's observations was not a minor political lapse but a serious institutional offence when done by constitutional authorities, and could corrode public trust in the judiciary.

Mr. Sarma retaliated saying that the Congress was "obsessed" with *Miya* while ignoring the interests and identity of the *"Asomiya"* (Assamese) people.

Real satisfaction when BJP wins in Bengal: Shah

Accusing Trinamool of 'institutionalising corruption', Union Home Minister says the 'Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal is the most corrupt government in the entire country'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Home Minister Amit Shah during BJP workers meeting, at Barrackpore on Saturday. BJP West Bengal President Samik Bhattacharya and BJP Leader Suvendu Adhikari are also present. ANI

Emphasising that the founder of Jana Sangh and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Syama Prasad Mookerjee hailed from West Bengal, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the BJP and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) had governments in 21 States and Union Territories, but real satisfaction would come only when the BJP won the West Bengal Assembly election.

"The BJP and NDA have governments in 21 States, but it does not matter. On this land of Bengal, 60 of our workers were killed by Trinamool Congress goons. Can the BJP workers tolerate this? Even after forming governments in 21 States, there is no satisfaction for BJP workers and our Prime Minister. A smile will come on their faces when there is a BJP government in West Bengal," the Home Minister said at a public meeting at Siliguri in north Bengal.

During the day, Mr. Shah addressed two public meetings at Siliguri in north Bengal and Barrackpore in south Bengal.

In Siliguri, the BJP leader said that the party would sweep all Assembly seats in north Bengal in the upcoming polls. The Assembly polls in West Bengal are likely to be held in the next few months.

Accusing the Trinamool Congress of "institutionalising corruption", Mr. Shah said the "Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal is the most corrupt government in the entire country".

The BJP leader also accused the Trinamool Congress of opposing a discussion on *Vande Mataram* in Parliament to appease "infiltrators" who were the vote bank of the party.

At both public meetings, Mr. Shah accused the State government of not providing land for fencing along the Bangladesh border.

"The infiltration happening from West Bengal is a matter of national security," Mr. Shah said, adding that those who infiltrated from the State got their fake documents made in the State and spread in different parts of the country.

Mr. Shah said that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was opposed to the SIR (special intensive revision) as the process was removing "infiltrators" from electoral rolls. "We will ensure that discrepancies are removed from electoral rolls," he said.

Emphasising the strategic importance of the area called chicken's neck near Siliguri, the Home Minister said that some people had raised slogans to cut off the chicken neck.

"Some time ago, some people raised slogans in Delhi that they wanted to cut off the chicken's neck. How can you cut it off, it is your father's land. This is India's land and nobody can lay hands on it. When the Delhi police put them behind bars, those with the INDIA alliance tried to release them," he said.

'Kerala for All': final day to discuss future of tourism

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The second day of 'Kerala for All', the two-day knowledge conclave on inclusive and accessible tourism jointly organised by Kerala Tourism and *The Hindu*, will be structured around governance, institutional direction, innovation, and sector-wide implementation.

Building on the conceptual and design-led discussions on the opening day, Day Two brings policymakers, administrators, practitioners, and industry leaders together to outline pathways to embed inclusive thinking into the future of Kerala's tourism landscape.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the conference at Hotel Grand Hyatt at 11 a.m.

N. Ram, Director, *The Hindu Group*, will deliver a special address at the session.

The inaugural session will set the policy tone for the day, signalling the State's intent to move from dialogue to long-term structural change.

The first session, "Vision Kerala for all: shaping the future of Kerala Tourism", will bring together Suman Billa, Additional Secretary and Director-General, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, and K. Biju, Secretary, Kerala Tourism.

On accessible tourism

A session titled "Seeing travel differently: navigating the world without sight" will centre on the perspectives of visually challenged travellers, highlighting challenges related to wayfinding, information access, and public infrastructure.

The broader social dimensions of tourism will be examined in "Gender inclusivity at the heart of tourism", which brings together voices from government, international organisations, and design practice.

A presentation on "Inclusive tourism through a neurodiverse lens" will examine how tourism environments, from hotels to public spaces, can be overwhelming or exclusionary, and will outline approaches for designing more accommodating and responsive systems.

The session on "International spotlight: how leading countries built accessible tourism circuits" will draw on global case studies to examine how accessibility has been integrated into destination planning elsewhere.

Technology and innovation will take centre stage in "Digital and tech innovation in inclusive and accessible tourism".

The session "Accessible hospitality: Rethinking hotels, resorts and public venues" will bring together hospitality leaders and practitioners to examine how inclusive principles can be translated into design, operations, and guest experience. Together, the sessions aim to consolidate the conclave's deliberations into a forward-looking framework. Svayam, a leading Indian non-profit championing barrier-free and inclusive environments, is the knowledge partner for the event.

Bharat Jodo Yatra will be cherished for decades: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On the third anniversary of the completion of the Rahul Gandhi-led Kanniyakumari-to-Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh, in a post on social media platform X on Saturday, recalled how the yatra's central message focused on "sharpening economic inequalities, deepening social polarisation, and increasing political authoritarianism" in the past 12 years.

Mr. Ramesh on Saturday said the Bharat Jodo Yatra that covered 4,000 km across 12 States was "a profoundly transformative event in our country's politics".

"It will be recalled and cherished for decades to come," the Congress leader added.

Economy in a free fall; will Union Budget offer real solutions: Congress chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

A day before Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will table the Union Budget, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday stressed that the Narendra Modi government could not hide behind the excuse of "legacy".

"Their own legacy has pushed the economy into an unprecedented mess. Will this Budget offer real solutions to the multiple economic indicators that are now in free fall," Mr. Kharge asked in an X post. He shared a video of comparative analysis of growth under the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, headed by the Congress, and the Modi government.

He said manufacturing growth had declined from an average of 7.4% during the UPA years to 3.54% under the current government, while the sector's share in GDP remained stuck at about 13%, well short of the 25% target promised under the "Make in India" programme.

Only one in two graduates was employable. Unemployment among young women stood at 26.3% and among young men at 15.8%, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey and the India Skills Report.

He pointed to a sharp slowdown in exports, saying that India's share in global trade had fallen to its lowest in 80 years.

Mr. Kharge said household savings had declined from 7.4% to 5.3%, according to official estimates.

Rising food inflation, falling two-wheeler sales and an increase in personal loans reflected weakening middle-class consumption, he said. On infrastructure, he cited the Economic Survey to say that 51% of the annual highway construction target remained incomplete.

"The mess is yours, the legacy is yours. Now, show us the solution if you have one," he said.

Modi to visit Punjab today to unveil renamed airport

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Punjab on Sunday, during which he will unveil the renaming of Adampur airport in Jalandhar district as 'Sri Guru Ravidas Ji' Airport. The Prime Minister will also inaugurate the terminal building at Halwara Airport in Ludhiana.

To celebrate the 649th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas, the renaming of Adampur airport honours the revered saint and social reformer..., an official statement said.

Mr. Modi will be at Dera Sach Khand Ballan at Ballan village and will meet Sant Niranjan Dass, who was recently named for the Padma Shri. The visit assumes political significance, pointing to the party's Dalit outreach in the run-up to the Punjab Assembly election due in early 2027.

The statement added that the terminal building at Halwara Airport will serve as a new gateway for Punjab, connecting Ludhiana and its surrounding industrial and agricultural belt, thereby strengthening the State's aviation infrastructure. Halwara also houses an Indian Air Force station.

Humayun Kabir blames Mamata for communal remarks

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Janata Unnayan Party founder and suspended Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir on Saturday publicly apologised for making communally offensive remarks against Hindus nearly a year ago.

Mr. Kabir held a public rally in Murshidabad where Imran Solanki, the State president of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, was present.

On the issue of the communally offensive remarks, Mr. Kabir said he had made the remarks at the behest of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who had asked him to ensure victory for Trinamool Congress candidates Yusuf Pathan and Abu Taher in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Major police reshuffle in West Bengal ahead of Assembly election

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

In a major reshuffle of the West Bengal police, senior IPS officer Peeyush Pandey has been appointed Director-General and Inspector-General of Police (DGP) in-charge.

Mr. Pandey, a 1993-batch officer, will take up the post of DGP following the superannuation of incumbent Rajeev Kumar on Saturday. The reshuffle comes months ahead of the Assembly election in West Bengal.

Manoj Kumar Verma, Commissioner of Kolkata Police, has been posted as Director, Security, West Bengal, while Supratim Sarkar, ADG and IGP, south Bengal, will take over as Commissioner of Police, Kolkata.

Vineet Kumar Goyal, ADG and IGP, STF, has been posted as ADG (Law and Order), West Bengal, with additional charge of ADG, Anti-Corruption Bureau, while Jawed Shamim, ADG and IGP (Law and Order), has been given charge as ADG, Special Task Force (STF).

Praveen Kumar Tripathi, Commissioner of Police, Howrah, has been posted as Commissioner of Police, Barrackpore.

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File No- Dir/PO/2024-25 Date:- 15.01.2026
NIT No.:- 06/2025-26
Bids for Manual Hydraulic Core Splitter, Ball Mill and WD-XRF with accessories & 5 years CAMC are invited from interested bidders up to 1.00 PM, 05.02.2026 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & https://mines.rajasthan.gov.in/ The approximate value of procurement is **4.57 crore.**
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(An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India),
Pudukkottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005, Tamil Nadu
Tel.: 04362-228155 Email: registrar@iifpt.edu.in Website: www.niftem-t.ac.in
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Online bids are invited for the procurement of Test Kits for Plan Fund and NVBDCP for Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala vide e-tender no KMSCL/ED/Test Kits(Plan & NVBDCP)/RC/2026/001 dated: 31.01.2026.

Sl. No.	Name of Item	No. of Items	Last Date & time of Uploading of tender	Date & time of Technical Bid opening
1.	Medical Diagnostic Test Kits	7	16.02.26 5.00 pm.	19.02.26 11.30 am.

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.**
(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

INBRIEF

Media sector is transforming at a fast pace, says L. Murugan

Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan on Saturday said India's media industry was undergoing a rapid transformation. The journey has moved from traditional platforms to digital media, and now into an AI-based media era, he said. Speaking at BES Expo 2026, the Minister said technology had completely changed the way content was created, distributed, and consumed. He said India's creative strength and technological capability were gaining recognition on the global stage. He spoke about skill-building initiatives taken by the government, including setting up the Indian Institute of Creative Technology.

Truck driven on wrong side runs over 5 Odisha motorists

Five persons on bikes were killed and eight sustained injuries when a truck being driven on the wrong side rammed them in Ganjam district of Odisha on Saturday afternoon. The accident took place on the Gosain Nuagaon overbridge where a truck sped into traffic, resulting in the death of five bike riders. Eight others were rushed to hospital where the condition of two persons was stated to be critical. The driver fled the spot, but was later arrested, the police said. Expressing grief over the loss of lives, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced an *ex-gratia* of ₹4 lakh each for the families of the deceased.

Sonam Wangchuk taken to AIIMS, Jodhpur on SC order

Activist and scientist Sonam Wangchuk, lodged in Jodhpur Central Jail since September 27, 2025, was taken to AIIMS Jodhpur for a medical examination early on Saturday morning, officials said. He spent about 90 minutes in the gastroenterology department before being taken back to the prison. According to sources, Mr. Wangchuk was experiencing stomach-related issues and had visited the hospital on Friday as well. The Supreme Court, currently hearing a petition filed by his wife, has requested Mr. Wangchuk's medical report by February 2. His counsel said he was suffering from stomach pain due to the jail's water quality. PTI

UAE hails India-EU trade pact; calls it 'model of partnerships'

The United Arab Emirates has applauded the free trade agreement reached between India and the European Union. In a recent statement by the UAE's Foreign Ministry, Minister of State Saeed Al Hajeri said the pact "reflects the commitment of both sides to promoting free trade and economic openness and embodies as a model of economic partnerships that support sustainable growth and shared prosperity". The UAE noted its own Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreementwith India as an example of an advanced model of strategic trade partnership. The statement hoped UAE-EU talks would also conclude positively, leading to a similar pact. PTI

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	7	6	4	3	2	8	1	9
4	9	1	8	7	5	2	3	6
2	8	3	1	6	9	4	5	7
8	5	4	9	2	1	6	7	3
9	3	7	6	8	4	1	2	5
6	1	2	3	5	7	9	8	4
7	2	8	5	9	6	3	4	1
3	4	9	7	1	8	5	6	2
1	6	5	2	4	3	7	9	8

Warehouse fire spotlights illegal structures on Kolkata wetlands

Experts warn that rapid encroachment on protected wetland zone, a natural filter for sewage, can lead to long-term damage to the ecosystem of city and its surroundings; parties engage in blame game over blaze that killed 25 people

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

As a massive blaze tore through a warehouse at Anandapur of east Kolkata and killed over 25 people on Republic Day, it exposed a deeper fault line in the system – how illegal and indiscriminate construction has eaten away at the ecologically sensitive zone on the fringes of the region.

Experts warn that such rapid encroachment of the Ramsar-listed wetlands, which are a natural filter for sewage, can lead to long-term damage to the ecosystem of the city and its surroundings.

Official records and court proceedings have raised concerns over encroachment and unauthorised development in the protected wetland zone.

The East Kolkata Wetlands Management Authority (EKWMA) Management Action Plan, 2021-2026 says, "Land use and land cover of the wetland to be [is] maintained in line with regulatory requirements under Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 and East Kolkata Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Act, 2006. No illegal transformation of land use."

Officials say the warehouses existed before 2006, prior to the Ramsar Convention, and warn that closure of such commercial spaces can affect the livelihoods of many poor people. DEBASISH BHADURI

The report says the wetlands save Kolkata city and its surroundings a whopping ₹4,680 million annually in water treatment costs.

The wetlands treats over 900 million litres of sewage generated in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation area every day (approximately 65% of the total sewage generated in the metropolitan area).

These wetlands, which are situated right beside the capital city of West Bengal, span a massive 12,500 hectares.

Experts fear that the land has become a lucrative business space for the land mafia.

Threat to resources

"This is part of our natural resources. The wetlands filters huge amounts of water on a daily basis. It also helps the production of almost half of our fishes and vegetables. If this space shrinks, our ecosystem will also be destroyed," Partha Pratim Biswas, Professor of construction engineering at Jadavpur University, told *The Hindu*.

Professor Biswas added that as these wetlands lie right beside Kolkata, most of it was officially part of the gram panchayat area and not included in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation area. There is not much of an uproar over encroachment, though it could rapidly impact the lives of the city-dwellers, he said.

"Setting up warehouses here does not cost much money, way less than in prime Kolkata locations. It is strategically placed under a gram panchayat, which makes law implementation slow and loose, making the construction and encroachment lucrative for all business owners," he added.

As rescue operations continue, political parties have blamed each other.

"This has been here before 2006, before the Ramsar convention came into place. We did not stop it because closing down commercial spaces such as this indiscriminately can stop the income of many poor people," Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim said. He said that currently, no other wetlands were being encroached, and if it happened, they were being razed.

However, Opposition leaders said that most constructions in these parts were illegal. Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari said, "This is not an accident, it is a man-made disaster caused by illegal warehouses operating without fire safety norms, NOCs, or audits in the east Kolkata wetlands. The Trinamool Congress government's chronic apathy, corruption, and failure to enforce basic regulations have caused this."

Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Sujan Chakraborty said these illegal constructions had happened under the Trinamool government.

BJP demands SC-monitored SIT probe into Kolkata fire

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday demanded a Supreme Court-monitored special investigation team (SIT) probe into the Anandapur warehouse fire in West Bengal, accusing the Trinamool Congress government of not taking action against the "main culprits".

At a press conference, BJP spokesperson Guru Prakash Paswan said that 27 people had lost their lives so far and that several others were still missing. "However, neither Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee nor any State Minister has visited the site. They are silent over the whole issue," he alleged.

Mr. Paswan further alleged that the chief executive officer of Wow! Momo, the fast-food chain whose warehouse was one of the two gutted in the fire, had recently accompanied Ms. Banerjee on her visit to Madrid. He questioned why the State government had not taken action against him. He said the arrest of the warehouse manager and deputy manager was a mere "token action".

Alleging that basic fire safety norms were not enforced, the BJP leader said the State government appears to be completely indifferent despite multiple fires.

NGT pulls up stadiums for use of groundwater

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has pulled up cricket stadiums across the India for using groundwater to irrigate their grounds, instead of treated wastewater, as per a recent order.

It also imposed a fine of ₹5,000 each on Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi and 11 other stadiums for not submitting the required details about their water usage to the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), as ordered by the court.

"It appears that IS Bindra Stadium, Mohali/Punjab Cricket Association is not inclined to comply with the orders of the Tribunal and without utilising the STP treated water it intends to continue using the groundwater which has a serious adverse impact on the environment," the NGT said in an order dated January 22. The order said the situation was "somewhat similar" in some other cricket associations as well.

The associations have been directed to submit their explanations within six weeks.

El Nino might occur after July; a clear picture will emerge after April: IMD

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

There is a chance that the El Nino phenomenon – a warming of the central Pacific Ocean frequently linked to weak monsoon rainfall in India – may occur after July, but clarity will only emerge in April, says M. Mohapatra, Director-General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

"ENSO-neutral conditions are likely to persist until July and there's a probability it might move towards El Nino conditions," he said on Saturday in his monthly briefing on expected weather conditions in India in February.

An El Nino is defined as the central equatorial Pacific heating, on average, at least half a degree warmer than the average for five consecutive overlapping three-month periods. Historically, six out of 10 El Nino years have been linked to depressed rainfall over India. The El Nino is the converse of the La Nina – a half-degree cooling – and the two are cyclical phenomena. The last global El Nino was during 2023-24, a year that saw rainfall below normal levels in India.

El Nino phenomenon is defined as a climate pattern characterised by warmer ocean surface temperature. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The latest climate models show a greater than 50% chance of an El Nino appearing over India after June and increasing to nearly 70% during July, August, and September. July and August are the most important months of the summer monsoon.

Jatin Singh, chairman of the private weather forecasting company Skymet, said that "early" climate models signalled a likely El Nino in 2026, raising the risk of a "sub-par monsoon and drought conditions over India".

El Nino forecasts made in February and March are generally prone to error, Mr. Mohapatra said, adding that those made in April are generally more accurate.

Hotter February days

The IMD forecast said that below-normal rainfall was likely over most parts of the country in February, except in some areas of northwest and east-central India. Temperatures over most of India were likely to be on the higher side, except in parts of southern India, the IMD added.

NIA to probe Beldanga violence; will examine conspiracy angle

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday began its probe into the violence in Beldanga that kept West Bengal's Murshidabad district on edge for over two days during mid-January.

The agency will investigate whether the violence was an organised conspiracy, including the role of fake news or deliberate provocation by groups or individuals.

An NIA team has already reached Beldanga and held discussions with officials involved in the earlier probe. The Central agency has also reportedly registered a fresh case and sought relevant documents from the local police.

Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari had demanded an NIA probe into the matter on multiple occasions. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders had previously alleged that the violence was pre-planned. "The latest riots in Murshidabad's Beldanga were not spontaneous. They were

NIA team arriving at the Beldanga police station in Murshidabad, West Bengal. PTI

politically convenient," BJP leader Amit Malviya had said.

Violence erupted in Beldanga on January 16 following the death of a migrant worker from the area in the neighbouring Jharkhand.

Large numbers of people took to the streets, blocking railway tracks and a national highway for several hours. As the protests turned violent, police resorted to baton charges to control the situation. At least 12 people were injured in the clashes, and around 30 were arrested for inciting violence.

Panel to provide guidance on healthcare for trans people

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry has constituted a panel of medical experts from various domains to hold discussions and provide technical and policy-level guidance on healthcare-related issues concerning transgender persons, as outlined in its directive issued earlier this week.

The directive comes after an advisory committee was constituted last year on the direction of the Supreme Court in the *Jane Kaushik vs Union of India and Others* case.

Jane, a trans woman, has alleged that she faced discrimination and humiliation in the course of her employment on account of her gender identity. She has said that this discrimination led to termination of her services by two schools in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

"It was noted during the second meeting of the advisory committee held on January 24, 2026 that there was no representative from the Union Health Ministry. Healthcare is a critical area, and in view of the specialised needs of transgender persons, the committee considered that this subject requires focused deliberation in a dedicated session," said the directive issued by the Ministry.

An ethical and science-based approach can foster a more equitable society for trans people. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The Ministry has now said that a meeting of medical experts with the advisory committee is scheduled for February 2.

Science-based approach

Speaking about the issues and the importance of having the Union Health Ministry in the committee, Gopi Shankar Madurai, representative of intersex persons and former member of the National Council for Transgender Persons, said: "While transgender individuals deserve dignity and rights, policies must be grounded in biological sex distinctions to protect all vulnerable groups. I urge ICMR, AIIMS, and the government to fund peer-reviewed, longitudinal studies on GAS/HRT outcomes, integrate genetic counselling, and reform prison policies for separate transgender facilities."

"This science-based approach will mitigate suffering, align with ethical imperatives, and foster a truly equitable society," they added.

The first day of the two-day 'Kerala for All' conclave in Kochi elicited a good response from the audience. R.K. NITHIN

Shinkari Melam performed by Poombatta, Kerala's first differently abled percussion ensemble, at the conclave. THULASI KAKKAT

Delegates attending a session at the conclave which addressed crucial issues on accessibility. THULASI KAKKAT

A delegate poses a question to the speakers at a session of the conclave. THULASI KAKKAT

'Kerala has set a national benchmark for inclusive and accessible tourism'

At 'Kerala for All' conclave, organised by Kerala Tourism and *The Hindu*, State Tourism Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas says physical, social and informational, and attitudinal barriers must be removed so as to enable every traveller to explore the world with dignity and independence

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Inclusive and accessible tourism is not a special service for a few, but a shared responsibility of governments, industry, stakeholders, communities, and citizens, Kerala Minister for Public Works and Tourism P.A. Mohamed Riyas has said.

Opening the Kerala for All conclave, a two-day knowledge conclave on inclusive and accessible tourism organised jointly by *The Hindu* and Kerala Tourism in Kochi, on Saturday, Mr. Riyas said that "keeping this in mind, Kerala has initiated the first step towards this direction by drafting a design policy, a first-of-its-kind initiative in India."

Several States in the country are emulating Kerala, which shows the need for and acceptance of such policies across the nation, he said.

Emphasising that inclusive tourism will enhance the quality of life for both visitors and host communities, the Minister said strong policy support, regulatory frameworks, and the smart use of technology such as assistive apps and digital guides are needed to accelerate this transformation.

Stressing the need to remove the physical, social, informational, and attitudinal barriers to enable every traveller to explore the world with dignity and independence, the Minister reminded that the right to travel safely, comfortably, and with dignity belongs to everyone.

Kerala Public Works and Tourism Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas at the opening session of the 'Kerala for All' conclave organised by Kerala Tourism and *The Hindu* in Kochi on Saturday. THULASI KAKKAT

Safe destinations

Accessibility benefits persons with disabilities, senior citizens, families with young children, people with temporary injuries, and indeed every traveller. Barrier-free infrastructure such as ramps, lifts, accessible toilets, and well-designed public spaces create destinations comfortable and safe for all, the Minister said.

The Minister stressed the importance of having clear signage that is easy to understand. Accessible information further enhances the travel experience. "However, infrastructure alone is not enough. The human element is equally important. Trained and sensitised tourism personnel play a critical role in creating inclusive hospitality environments. Inclusive tourism is built on universal design principles, ensuring that facilities are usable by everyone without the need for special adaptation," he said.

Inclusive tourism also embraces cultural, linguistic, and economic diversity, ensuring that no one feels excluded. Community participation is the backbone of successful inclusive tourism. When local communities are involved, tourism becomes more meaningful, sustainable, and socially inclusive, said Mr. Riyas.

The Minister also added that the association with the Kerala Tourism department and The Hindu Group together would open a new chapter in the area, making travel and its connected experiences more democratic and also inclusive.

'Role of *The Hindu*'

In the welcome address, Suresh Nambath, Editor of *The Hindu*, said, "*The Hindu* believes that the wider civil society needs to be involved in a sustained public discourse, and we are committed to fulfilling our role in this respect by shaping conversations and aiding policy formulations through our publishing platforms. Our support for tourism without barriers is just one example of *The Hindu*'s commitment to accessibility and inclusion in all sectors. The discussions will leave a lasting impact and contribute to purposeful change in this area," he said.

Rupeshkumar K., CEO, Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission Society; Mini Sukumar, expert member, Kerala State Planning Board; and Soity Banerjee, travel & food journalist, take part in the conclave. H. VIBHU

State rides the Responsible Tourism wave

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

What started as a community-level vegetable cultivation among a group of local community members has now evolved into a nationally acclaimed Responsible Tourism movement in Kerala, Rupeshkumar K., chief executive officer, Kerala RT Mission Society, has said.

Addressing a session on Kerala's Responsible Tourism Legacy as part of the two-day conclave on inclusive and accessible tourism on Saturday, he said when the Responsible Tourism Mission was launched in Kerala in 2007, many critics wanted to know what role vegetable cultivation would play in tourism.

"We wanted to develop community-based tourism activities that offered a different and engaging experience for the visitors. With activities such as coconut climbing, coir-making and fishing for visitors, village tourism over the years became a big success story of Kerala under the Responsible Tourism Mission, winning accolades including national awards for the Best RT Village and the Best Agri-Tourism Village for the projects it implemented at Kadalundi in Kozhikode and Kumarakom, respectively," said Mr. Rupeshkumar.

Farm tourism destination

The backwater destination of Kumarakom in Kottayam turned into a major farm tourism destination through the schemes initiated by the RT Mission in partnership with the grama panchayat, he said.

Now, around 1.9 lakh families are engaged with the RT Mission. More than 26,000 units are into village tourism activities, and of them, more than 18,000 units are funded by women, he said.

According to Soity Banerjee, travel and food journalist, Responsible Tourism strategist, and co-founder of KINDOW, Kerala has reframed the idea of Responsible Tourism by effective interventions. The State has reframed the concept, which has become the signature style of tourism that Kerala is known for, said Ms. Banerjee.

The initiative is also instrumental in empowering women in the State by creating an environment that is conducive for women to travel and work at all levels. Now women of all ages are willing to travel, and the budget tourism initiative started by the State is another successful model for inspiring women to travel, said Mini Sukumar, expert member, Kerala State Planning Board. S. Anandan, Resident Editor, Kerala, *The Hindu*, moderated the session.

Kerala mulls industry tag for tourism

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The State government is actively considering a proposal to give industry status to the tourism sector, a long-standing demand of the tourism stakeholders, said Minister for Industries P. Rajeeve.

He was speaking on the 'Role of Industries in Advancing Inclusive and Accessible Tourism in Kerala' at the Kerala for All conclave here on Saturday. Mr. Rajeeve said tourism entrepreneurs cited two main benefits for raising such a demand – low power charges and provision for low-interest loans. Now, the Electricity department is considering the first and the Finance department, the second, he said.

The State government has taken steps, including rule amendment by the Local Self-Governments department which allows utilisation of 50% of the occupied houses and 100% of the vacant houses for business activities, except the red category industries. "I think it will give more momentum to the tourism industry, particularly for home stays," he said.

P. Rajeeve, Minister for Law and Industries, addresses a session on the 'Role of Industries in Advancing Inclusive and Accessible Tourism in Kerala'. R.K. NITHIN

"Kerala is well known for inclusiveness in tourism. In the MSME sector in Kerala, 40% of entrepreneurs are women, which is another facet of inclusiveness. We are now celebrating the 20th anniversary of Responsible Tourism and have all type of facilities here. Kerala is a small State, accounting for only 1.16% of the landscape of the country but is home to highest number of five star hotels, 94," he said.

'Rules changed'

The Minister said rules had been changed, making ramps and accessibility mandatory for commercial buildings to procure licences. "This is applicable to the tourism industry too, which means all can enjoy tourism without barriers and with dignity."

"However, we have to ensure full accessibility to all places, including tourism destinations. After this conclave *The Hindu*, I think, will submit a report to the government. Tourism and industry ministries are working together as a team and will look into the proposals, based on which the State government will take all possible steps within a stipulated time frame," he said.

Educate architects on accessibility needs, says expert

Priyanjali Prabhakaran, Kavita Murugkar, and moderator S. Anandan, at a session. THULASI KAKKAT

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Lack of empathy, inadequate dissemination of information, and the absence of continuous education for architects are hampering universal accessibility, observed Priyanjali Prabhakaran, principal investigator, Barrier Free Consultancy Cell and Professor, Department of Architecture and Planning, College of Engineering Trivandrum, along with Kavita Murugkar, architect, educator, and universal design evangelist.

They were speaking at a session on Accessibility First: Designing Tourism without Barriers (A Broader View on Accessibility) at the two-day Kerala for All conclave.

Emphasising the three components of the Accessible India Campaign – built environment accessibility, transportation system accessibility, and information and communication system accessibility – Ms. Prabhakaran noted that while standards exist to ensure accessibility, they are not being implemented on the ground.

Ms. Murugkar, however, pointed out that the problem was not only empathy but also the absence of proper dissemination of information. She said only a small percentage of architects are aware that their building designs must incorporate accessibility standards. Accessibility is also missing from the curriculum of architecture and design schools. As a result, architects graduate without adequate knowledge or technical capacity to implement accessibility. Continuous education for architects, since rules change regularly, should be institutionalised.

Ms. Prabhakaran added that while the National Highways Authority of India and the Public Works department (PWD) follow the same standards in road construction, these standards prioritise vehicles over seamless connectivity. Sidewalks and drains are provided only when space permits and often as an afterthought.

Ms. Murugkar identified coordination between different departments as the greatest challenge to ensuring accessibility.

Attitude, not infrastructure, the real barrier, says Paralympian

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Asserting that attitudinal barriers, more than infrastructural limitations, confine people with disabilities to their homes, Paralympian and world champion Ekta Bhyan called for the inclusion of elderly persons in accessibility initiatives.

Addressing the session 'Voices from the Road: Lived Realities of Diverse Travellers' at the Kerala for All conclave, Ms. Bhyan said accessibility remains a distant dream in a country like India. "You may not have a person with disability in your family, but if you have an elderly member at home, you will surely understand how crucial accessibility to public infrastructure and public transportation is," she said.

'Sports, an ideal route'

Divyanshu Ganatra, founder of the Adventures Beyond Barriers Foundation, who spoke at the session, said the status of persons with disabilities as a largely invisible minority is due to society's lack of contact with them.

"This lack of contact breeds bias and perpetuates it," he noted, while calling for systemic changes. According to him, the most effective way to achieve this is by delinking the disability model of accessibility from charity. "Sports, for instance, is an ideal route for achieving this, as it speaks the same language to everyone. It helps push the concept of accessibility through spirit and intention," Mr. Ganatra said.

Joby Mathew, Paralympian; Divyanshu Ganatra, founder, Adventures Beyond Barriers Foundation; Ekta Bhyan, Paralympian; and moderator K.C. Vijaya Kumar, at a session of the conclave. R.K. NITHIN

'Poor implementation'

According to him, accessibility in India still has a long way to go.

"It is not that we lack legislation to promote accessibility. It is on the implementation side that we are falling behind," Mr. Ganatra added.

Joby Mathew, Indian para-athlete and champion arm wrestler from Kerala, also highlighted how lack of access to public spaces had been impeding his daily life despite hus making achievements in the field of sports.

"Even when ramps are provided, we are often not allowed to use them independently and require the support of a volunteer in India. This is not the case in many foreign countries," he said.

The session was moderated by K.C. Vijaya Kumar, Sports Editor of *The Hindu*.

INBRIEF

SBI unveils CHAKRA Centre for financing sunrise sectors

State Bank of India (SBI) unveiled 'CHAKRA' – Centre of Excellence (CoE) for financing sunrise sectors critical to India's economic development. The Centre will focus on renewable energy, advanced cell chemistry & battery storage, electric mobility, green hydrogen, semiconductor, decarbonisation, smart infrastructure and data centre infrastructure. By 2030, these sectors are expected to entail capital investment of more than ₹100 lakh crore. PTI

IDFC FIRST Bank Q3 net surges 48% to ₹503 crore

IDFC FIRST Bank reported net profit for the third quarter ended 31 December surged 48% year-on-year to ₹503 crore. Net Interest Margin (NIM) slid 28 basis points to 5.76%. "We are seeing a strong business momentum across all our main lines of businesses, including lending, deposits, wealth management, transaction banking etc," said V. Vaidyanathan, MD and CEO. "Our asset quality has improved with GNPA at 1.69% and Net NPA at 0.53%," he added.

GAIL's Q3 net declines 58.6%, declares ₹5 interim dividend

State-owned Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)'s standalone profit in the third quarter ended December 31 slid 58.6% year-on-year to ₹1,602.57 crore primarily on slipping momentum with the petrochemical segment registering a loss and the LPG and liquid hydrocarbon segments logging an exponential dip in profit. Revenue slid about 2.7% to ₹34,755.27 crore. The state-owned gas provider also declared an interim dividend of ₹5 per share.

Will ISRO's arm NSIL pick up the slack of a flat space budget?

The gap between what the industry wants and what the Department of Space needs has never been wider; industry wants govt. to inject 18x the amount of private capital raised in a single year, turning the state into the primary venture capitalist

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vasudevan Mukunth

From the historic high of landing on the moon to the recent sobering reality of failed launches and near-misses that triggered internal reviews, the last five years have been a period of strategic volatility for Department of Space (DoS).

What began as a celebrated era of 'unlocking' the sector, marked by the Indian government's 2020 reforms, the creation of INSPACe, and the entry of private players like Skyroot and Agnikul, has transitioned into a complex phase of growing pains.

The Economic Survey 2025-26, however, has read the events of the last decade not as a period of struggle but one of export consolidation. It noted that between 2015 and 2024, India launched 393 foreign satellites for 34 countries, earning over $143 million and €272 million.

But it's possible that this revenue stream is masking the Department's internal structural fragility. The space industry has been clamouring for a historic budget hike to fund a projected $44 billion space economy over the next decade, a figure that the Survey backs, including upstream launch and satellite manufacturing and downstream applications and services. So the Department needs to balance the promises of human spaceflight and a space station against the unglamorous need to fix the manufacturing issues threatening its primary launch capability.

Capacity to absorb

The Budget Estimates (BE) have grown minimally over the last four years. Between FY22 and FY26, the nominal allocation decreased and then recovered slightly, effectively shrinking when adjusted for inflation. The Department of Space has consistently failed to use up its initial allocations, leading to progressive downward revisions in the Revised Estimates (RE), weakening the case for a larger increase in the FY27 Budget. (The Finance Ministry has historically preferred a greater capacity to absorb funds over fulfilling ambitions.)

In FY22, the capital expenses, on assets like new launch pads, spacecraft, etc., was ₹8,228 crore but by FY26 it had dropped to ₹6,103 crore. Conversely, revenue expenditure such as salaries and for operations rose from ₹5,720 crore in FY22 to ₹7,311 crore in FY26. Thus the budget is increasingly consumed by operational costs rather than new infrastructure or R&D assets.

This is a worrying trend for a technology-intensive organisation whose competitiveness in the long term depends on sustained capital formation.

The government appears to be betting that NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL) – ISRO's commercial arm – can plug this capital gap. The Survey pointed out NSIL's revenue surged from ₹322 crore in FY20 to ₹2,940 crore in FY23, with the implicit strategy to replace tax-funded infrastructure with growth funded by commerce, even as the core R&D budget stagnates.

'Critical infrastructure'

Both the Satcom Industry Association-India (SIA-India) and the Indian Space Association (ISpA) have formally articulated funding and policy demands for the FY27 Budget. SIA-India in particular has been vocal about the financial scale required. In its pre-Budget submission to the Finance Ministry, the body said the current allocation of about 0.04% of GDP is insufficient and it needs to reach 0.12%. It recommended a roadmap in which the FY27 target is ₹18,000 crore, to be earmarked for a 'National Satellite Connectivity Mission', expanded launch infrastructure and a hybrid production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme tailored to low-volume, high-reliability space components.

To understand how ambitious the ₹18,000 crore request is, one need only look at the Survey's data on private capital: India's entire 'NewSpace' ecosystem raised just over ₹1,000 crore in FY23. In other words the industry effectively wants the government to inject 18x the amount of private capital raised in a single year, turning the state into the primary venture capitalist.

ISpA, which represents major private players including Bharti Airtel, L&T, etc., asked the space sector be classified as "critical infrastructure" in the FY27 Budget. This is a financial mechanism to lower the cost of borrowing for private space firms. And instead of just asking for government grants, it demanded a policy where the government required 50% of all space-based services and hardware be procured from the domestic private sector.

The rationale was that predictable demand, with the government as an anchor customer, is more valuable than R&D subsidies, i.e. shifting from 'Department spending on itself' to 'Department buying from industry'. This model is closer to NASA's services-driven procurement approach than to ISRO's traditional asset ownership.

Building confidence

Leading private firms have echoed these sentiments and often focused on specific fiscal operational hurdles rather than just the total budget size.

'Seismic study of blocks awarded done for OALP-X bidding plan'

Saptaparno Ghosh
BETUL, GOA

Oil India undertook seismic study of the blocks awarded during the ninth round of the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) to chart a bidding strategy for the tenth round, CMD Ranjit Rath told *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the India Energy Week in Goa.

"As we speak, 2D seismic acquisition is complete. We had planned this much before," he stated, adding, "We have also completed 36% of the 3D seismic [study] alongside petroleum system modelling study of the basins as part of our in-house study, analysis of locations and [to chart] a bidding strategy," he said.

"Now, we are looking at OALP Round-X and would be submitting bids [accordingly]."

For context, the Maharatna had submitted bids for nine blocks, standalone and in joint ventures and won all in the erstwhile OALP round. This expanded the acreage by more than 51,000 square kilometre to 110,000 square kilometre.

OIL secured blocks in Assam Shelf basin, Mahanadi basin, Krishna Godavari basin and debuted in the Cambay basin.

Exploration target

In response to a query, Mr. Rath informed the explorer is targeting to cross 80 wells this fiscal year and 100 in the next fiscal year.

Adani to get legal notice in U.S. SEC civil fraud case, to respond in 90 days

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK/NEW DELHI

In a spot: The logo of the Adani Group is seen on the facade of its corporate house on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, India. REUTERS FILE

Billionaire Gautam Adani and his nephew, Sagar Adani, have agreed to receive a legal notice from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in a civil fraud lawsuit alleging they misled investors about a bribery scheme, according to a court filing.

The stipulation is subject to court approval.

In a filing in a federal court in Brooklyn, New York, seen by PTI, the SEC and U.S.-based lawyers for Gautam and Sagar Adani said the lawyers agreed to accept service of the regulator's legal papers, removing the need for a judge to rule on how the defendants should be served.

Submitted for approval

The joint application (or stipulation) has been submitted for approval from the concerned Court. This is a standard procedural step in U.S. legal proceedings that allows for the orderly resolution of cases.

If agreed by the judge, the joint application will allow the SEC matter to progress while giving time to the Adanis to either file motion to dismiss or defence within 90 days. The SEC thereafter can file opposition within a further period of 60 days.

The Defendants can file replies to such opposition within 45 days.

The SEC had filed a lawsuit in November 2024 alleging that the two violated U.S. securities laws by making false and misleading representations about Adani Green Energy Ltd. (AGEL).

In addition to the SEC's civil complaint, federal prosecutors in Brooklyn, New York, have charged the Adanis and others with allegedly helping to drive a $265 million bribery scheme in India to secure solar power contracts. The Adani Group repeatedly denied accusations against it or the founder family.

Lawsuits stalled

Both lawsuits have been stalled for more than a year as both Adanis remain in India and couldn't be served the notices. Last week, the SEC asked a U.S. judge to allow alternative methods to notify them of the suit, including service by email and through other U.S. law firms representing the Adanis.

Procedural step

AGEL, the renewable energy arm of the ports-to-cement conglomerate Gautam Adani, in a stock exchange filing, said the defendants - Gautam and Sagar Adani - agreeing to accept the notice is a procedural step and they would seek dismissal of the SEC's complaint or file responsive pleadings.

"We understand that on January 30, 2026, Counsel for defendants filed an application agreeing to accept service on behalf of the defendants without accepting the jurisdiction of the Eastern District of New York (EDNY) and reserving all defences the Defendants may raise, including as to jurisdiction," it said.

"We further understand that the defendants have taken procedural steps and intend to move to dismiss the SEC's complaint or file responsive pleadings." AGEL went on to cite its previous statement that Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani who are directors on its board, have not been "charged with violation/(s) of the United States Foreign Corrupt Practices Act i.e. there are no charges of bribery or corruption against the defendants." Also, the "company is not a party to these proceedings, and no charges have been brought against it," the filing said.

Mr. Adani has hired a prominent Wall Street lawyer, Robert Giuffra Jr, who also counts U.S. President Donald Trump among his clients, to defend him in the case.

Labour cooperative ULCCS' unit U-Sphere eyes national play

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

U-Sphere, the EPC subsidiary of Kerala's labour cooperative ULCCS, having started operations from Kerala last year is planning to go pan-India next year. The firm had won many projects in southern States and is mobilising resources for capacity building, CEO Biju Mahima told *The Hindu* in an interview.

"We are strong in Kerala. We have two projects in Bengaluru and one more in the pipeline. We have signed work in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh with more expected. We are receiving inquiries in Tamil Nadu, especially Chennai, though no contracts are signed yet," he said.

"We are also in advanced discussions for 30-40 storey high-rise buildings in Bengaluru and Hyderabad," he added.

"By next year, we expect presence across South India, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. We are also receiving inquiries from Delhi. FY28 onwards, we plan to be pan-India," he added.

"Currently, we have booked projects worth ₹50-60 crore with a target of ₹7,500 crore order book over the next five years. Around ₹400-500 crore is in the negotiation pipeline," Mr. Mahima said.

One of ULCCS' 11 verticals, U-Sphere focuses on construction using innovative technologies to improve speed, quality and client convenience. Speed is a key parameter in construction and innovation is its core focus. It was officially launched in 2025.

Government of Karnataka
DIRECTORATE OF URBAN LAND TRANSPORT
URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER URBAN LAND TRANSPORT
BMTC, TTMC 'B' Block, (Above Bus Stand), 4th Floor, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Ph : 080-22226627 / 6628, Fax : 080-22226630.
E-Mail : dultbangalore@gmail.com, dult@karnataka.gov.in W: https://dult.karnataka.gov.in
No:DULT-TECH/57/2025 Dated : 31.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) invites separate E-bids from qualified consultancies for the services of preparation of Karnataka State Regional Urbanization Plan 2047 for Karnataka. The last date for the receipt of e-bid on the **KPPP** portal for the tender is **03.03.2026, 5.30pm.** The bidders may download the tender documents for from **https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** web portal. Tender Number is as follows: **DULT/2025-26/SE0044**

DIPR/CP/5349/Shirdi Sai/2025-26

Sd/- Special Officer
Directorate of Urban Land Transport
Urban Development Department

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560020.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಹೆಉಆ(ಭೂಸ್ವಾ)/01/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.01.2026

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬ್ಯುಸಿನೆಸ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ (ಪಿ.ಆರ್.ಆರ್.) ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಆದೇಶ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲು ಸಿ.ವಿ.ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಆರ್ ಭವನ ಕಾಂಪ್ಲೆಕ್ಸ್, ಜವಹರಲಾಲ್ ನೆಹರು ತಾರಾಲಯ, ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹೈ ಗ್ರೌಂಡ್ಸ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-01 ಇಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.02.2026 ರಂದು** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ವಿಧಾನಮಂಡಲ ಜಂಟಿ ಅಧಿವೇಶನದ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಯ ಹಿನ್ನೆಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದೂಡಿದ್ದು, ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತೊಂದು ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಉಪ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು(ಭೂಸ್ವಾ), ಬೆಂ.ಅ.ಪ್ರಾ. ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE 73rd ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYO HALL, BANGALORE COURT HALL No.74
O. S. No. 26871/2012

Plaintiffs:
Mrs. L. NAGARATHNAMMA @ NAGAMMA Wife of Lordu, Aged about 34 Years, Residing at #40, Anandapura Slum, HAL 3rd Stage Extension, Bangalore-560017.

-:VERSUS:-

Defendents:
Mrs. E.R. Chaithra (Since Deceased)

SUMMONS TO L.R.OF DEFENDENT

Mr. V. Srinivas, Aged 45 Years, Husband of Late E.R.Chaithra, Residing at No.10, 7th Cross, 3rd Main Road, Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagara, HAL Post, Bangalore-560017.

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted the above suit for permanent Injunction in respect of the suit schedule Property and for declaring that certain documents executed by E.Nagarathnamma in favour of the Defendent is null and void and not binding on the Plaintiff.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Site No.40 with building thereon situated at Anandapura Slum, HAL 3rd Stage Extension, New Thippasandra Post, Jeevan Bhimanagara, Bangalore, measuring East to West 6.10 mtrs. and North to South 8 mtrs. bounded on:
East By: Site No. 39 **West By :** Site No. 41
North By : Site No. 27 **South By :** Road

You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on the **4th day of March 2026 at 11:00 am** in the forenoon to answer the same failing which the suit will disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the **30th day of January 2026.**

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit Bengaluru.

ADVOCATES FOR PLAINTIFF
Messrs Rego & Rego
N-509, Manipal Centre, #47/73, Dickenson Road, Bangalore-560042
Mob: 9845261368

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 0836- 2747944(ಕ) Fax No.: 0836-2741209 E-mail: eepwddha@gmail.com

ಕ್ರಸಂ:ಕಾನಿಇಂಧಾ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಬಿ.1,2,5/2025-26/5201 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31-01-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ I.F.T – KW – 1, 2, 3 & 4
ಇ-ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1, 2, 3 & 4 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. **(kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:– **2059–80–053–4–00–200, 4059~80~051~0~29~386, 5054–04–337–0–01–154 Major district road, 3054~04~105~0~01~200 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 3054–04–337–1–10–200 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 2025–26 (3054–03–102–0–01–200) ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, 2216–07–053–0–01–200 ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಸತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಂಗ ವಸತಿ ಗೃಹಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ/ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 2025–26 (KRDCL FUND)–5054–08–190–0–01–132, & 3054–03–102–0–01–200 ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಸೇತುವೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 4059–80–051–0–60–132 ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಅಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 8443 Deposit Contribution** ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

1) Calander of Events: – ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ

1. PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT31549
1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.02.2026 (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ)** 2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.02.2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ)** 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.02.2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)** 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.02.2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)**

2) Calander of Events: - ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ

1) PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT30956 **2)** PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT30646 **3)** PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT29190/CALL-2 **4)** PWD/2024 25/BD/WORK_INDENT 16551/CALL-2 **5)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT27458/CALL-2 **6)** PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT29351/CALL-2 **7)** PWD/2025-26/SE0723 **8)** PWD/2025-26/IND0140/Call-3 **9)** PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT28085/CALL-2 **10)** PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK INDENT 31549 **11)** PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT29188

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ - 12) PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT32450

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ - 13) PWD/2025-26/BG/WORK_INDENT29469 (Extension)

CAT-II(A) - 14). PWD/2025-26/BG/WORK_INDENT29468 (Extension) **15)** PWD/2025-26/SE0602 **16)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31541 (Extension)
1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.02.2026 (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ)** 2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.02.2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ)** 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.02.2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)** 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.02.2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)**

3) Calander of Events: – ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ

1) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT28460 **2)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT30871 **3)** PWD/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT28774 **4)** PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT30129 **5)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31545

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ- 6) PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT32449 **7)** PWD/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT32451
1) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.02.2026 (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ)** 2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.02.2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ)** 3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.02.2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)** 4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.02.2026 (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ)**

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರ್‌ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ./ಧಾರವಾಡ/I178/2025–26/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

IIT-Kanpur team develops new way to predict solar cycles

Vasudevan Mukunth

The sun is a giant magnetic ball that goes through roughly 11-year cycles of activity that drive solar flares and space weather that can disrupt satellites and power grids on the earth. But predicting the strength and timing of these cycles has been difficult because scientists can't see the magnetic fields deep inside the sun, where the activity originates.

In a January 20 study in *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, PhD student Soumyadeep Chatterjee and assistant professor Gopal Hazra at IIT-Kanpur reported reconstructing the invisible magnetic fields inside the sun using 30 years of data collected from the surface.

For decades, solar physicists have used computer simulations called dynamo models to understand how the sun generates its magnetic field. Traditionally, these models relied on simplified theoretical rules to represent sunspots. For example, previous models often treated sunspots as simple, symmetrical circular patches even though real sunspots are messy and irregular. But such simplifications often led to inaccurate predictions.

The duo, instead of relying on theoretical shapes, fed their 3D computer model real observations of the sun's surface field. They used data recorded between 1996 and 2025 by satellites like SOHO and the Solar Dynamics Observatory. By forcing the model to align with observations from the surface, they could estimate what the magnetic fields deep inside the sun must be doing.

The data-driven model could reproduce the 'butterfly diagram', a chart visualising how sunspots migrate from the sun's high latitudes towards the equator over a cycle.

It also revealed the behaviour of the toroidal magnetic field within the sun's convection zone. This field wraps around the sun like a doughnut and is the primary driver of sunspots. The researchers found their simulated internal field matched the actual intensity of cycles 23, 24, and 25.

They also tested the model's predictive capability by stopping the data feed at various points to see if it could forecast what happened next. It could accurately predict the peak amplitude of a cycle up to three years in advance. So by monitoring the surface magnetic fields today, scientists can get a reliable warning of how active the sun will be later.

"Our findings on one hand strengthen our physics understanding of the generation of solar magnetic fields and on the other... predict when the sun will be active, violent, and very dangerous for space-borne technological assets and communications," Dr. Hazra told *The Hindu*.

PRIYA trial links B12 intake to long-term health in babies

Vitamin B12 could be a 'regulator of regulators' that controls enzymes involved in gene expression; based on the finding, experts said the national policy should include vitamin B12 supplements to improve the nutritional status of adolescents

Rohini Karandikar

It is known that the Indian population, particularly vegetarians, is deficient in vitamin B12. The vitamin essential for the formation of blood cells and the functioning of nerve cells is mainly found in animal-derived food. B12 deficiency during pregnancy has been associated with neural tube defects and poor foetal growth, affecting long-term health.

In 1993, Chittaranjan Yajnik, Director, Diabetes Unit, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Pune, undertook the Pune Maternal Nutrition Study (PMNS) to investigate the parental determinants of foetal growth. The study showed that low vitamin B12 and high folate among women predicted a higher risk of what Dr. Yajnik called "diabesity", or insulin resistance and obesity in offsprings' later life.

Researchers asked if increasing the B12 status early on, in adolescence, could reduce the risk of diabesity in offspring. The Pune Rural Intervention in Young Adolescents (PRIYA) trial tested this hypothesis in 2012-2020, within PMNS. The follow-up studies on the babies of the women who were adolescents around 2012 ended in 2025.

This trial led to the first *in vivo* human study in which researchers investigated the molecular aspects of vitamin B12 deficiency through an intergenerational approach.

'Regulator of regulators'

Interventions targeting adolescent nutrition aim to prevent 'diabesity'

- Vitamin B12 deficiency is common in India and negatively affects foetal growth and long-term health
- The Pune Maternal Nutrition Study previously linked low maternal B12 to increased obesity risks in offspring
- In the PRIYA trial, researchers supplemented adolescents with B12 to see if doing so improved health outcomes for future children
- Supplementation improved neonatal weight proportions and significantly altered gene expression in cord blood cells
- Higher B12 levels surprisingly regulated the expression of genes that control DNA methylation processes
- Experts suggested adding vitamin B12 to national policies to boost population health and human capital development

Vital vitamins: Vitamin B12 and multi-micronutrient supplements in adolescents (plus standard care) improved the ponderal index in their neonates. RAGHAVENDRA V. KONKATHI

Investigators gave adolescents in the rural areas of Pune vitamin B12 and multi-micronutrient supplements (over and above standard care) and followed up to the delivery of their first child. Following delivery, they isolated the cord blood mononuclear cells (CMCs) and investigated them to study gene expression. The researchers reported that supplementation with vitamin B12 and multi-micronutrients in adolescents improved the ponderal index, i.e., weight in proportion to height, later in their neonates and altered gene expression in the CMCs.

To test how vitamin B12 was affecting gene expression, the researchers performed a cross-sectional study, whose findings were published in the *Journal of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease* on January 12. They conducted a weighted gene co-expression network analysis in cord blood cells and observed that higher levels of B12 in the cord blood correlated positively with the expression of genes encoding methylases – enzymes that add a methyl group to DNA, an epigenetic modification that regulates gene expression.

Vitamin B12's role in the regulation of methylases came as a surprise to researchers.

"You see, the activity of regulators [methylases] is known to be affected by B12, as B12 is involved in regenerating S-adenosyl methionine, or SAM, for methylation reactions," Satyajeet Khare, associate professor at Symbiosis School of Biological Sciences, and one of the co-corresponding authors of the study, said. "But who would have imagined that the expression of these regulators themselves is under the control of B12? Our results suggest the presence of a molecular mechanism for targeted regulation of genes by B12. B12 appears to act as a regulator of regulators."

Thus, the study contributes to the 'developmental origins of health and disease' hypothesis, which proposes that the intrauterine environment affects the long-term health of a developing foetus, in part through epigenetics.

The researchers noted that the study doesn't establish a causal link between vitamin B12 levels and gene expression.

That said, in the future, they could identify targets of methylases and demethylases. The present study also focused only on cord blood cells.

"We are only at cord blood right now. We do not know what is going to happen in the future," Dr. Khare said.

"Replication of the present study by using existing biobank samples at the global level will be required [to confirm] the mechanism hypothesised in the paper," Mohan Gupte, founder-director (retd.), ICMR-National Institute of Epidemiology and the ICMR School of Public Health, Chennai, said by email.

That said, he added, "The PRIYA study of Dr Yajnik has demonstrated the effectiveness of the recommended daily allowance of 2 micrograms. Even for the group with very low levels of B12, i.e., less than 100 pmol/L, 2 micrograms of B12 supplementation was found to be extremely useful."

Researchers and experts in the field recommended that the national policy should include giving physiological doses of vitamin B12 in iron and folic acid tablets to improve the nutritional status of adolescents and women of reproductive age.

"This will have beneficial effects on the health of the population, human capital, and promote growth and development of the nation," Dr Yajnik, also a co-corresponding author of this study, said.

Rohini Karandikar works with the TNQ Foundation and is a science communicator and educator

How to start building a career in the age of AI

DECODED

John Xavier

Internships and apprenticeships have long been effective for graduates and young adults to test their learning, develop new skills and secure employment. For organisations, they provided a way to identify potential hires.

However, recent advances in artificial intelligence and agentic systems are quickly making this 'on-the-job' learning and hiring channel vulnerable – much to the dismay of students and young adults.

Many organisations are rethinking entry-level roles and budgets, increasing AI spending while reducing these positions. This shift raises questions about career prospects for those looking to build a future in the coming decades.

Let's start with the basics. A career is a long-term professional journey marked by skill development, mobility and rewards. This journey has become increasingly chaotic for successive generations, but the biggest change began with Gen X.

Gen X witnessed a major shift in employment that challenged the traditional linear progression theory, where people typically start and end their careers at a single company. They entered a job market that valued individual competency over loyalty.

Looking back, we can see how the Internet, personal computers and globalisation transformed the stable job market of the Silent Generation. These changes flattened organisational hierarchies and created a new, laterally mobile talent pool. However, a deeper analysis reveals a hidden pattern: a world in flux that needed a new breed of talent.

Ideally, seek roles that allow you to develop skills by enhancing your learning outcomes through AI tools. AP

The world was shifting away from Abraham Maslow's 'Hierarchy of Needs' theory towards David McClelland's 'Human Motivation' theory. While both ideas centred on individual needs and growth, McClelland's theory removed the rigidity of Maslow's. He realised that individuals don't necessarily need to follow strict hierarchies to achieve fulfillment. Instead, people can meet their needs in non-hierarchical and non-linear ways.

Competency became the most crucial factor for growth and career advancement, surpassing loyalty and years of experience. Learning new skills led to promotions or switching to companies offering higher pay for those skills. This fluidity in the job market allowed people to move laterally and explore new industries and roles.

While formal skills and advanced degrees still commanded premiums, large language models – codified knowledge from textbooks – have nearly absorbed all existing digital formal knowledge. This disruption is affecting talent flow at the entry level and changing hiring practices.

In this future workforce, entry-level positions will begin with young professionals building augmentative working mechanisms using agentic AI systems.

Today's job market demands that career builders view existing AI tools as learning facilitators rather than task finishers. This distinction is vital because any AI-performed task diminishes the human element, which is something you'd rather avoid. Ideally, seek roles that allow you to develop skills by enhancing your learning outcomes through AI tools.

Also, this approach will gradually build a solid foundation, enabling you to add value to your profile and direction for your next move. It will also cultivate the right mindset to seek and build human-centric roles.

It's inevitable that AI agents will displace some jobs but new ones will eventually emerge. However, this development is beyond your control at the moment. Instead, you'll be shaping it through augmented employment. For organisations, this is the perfect time to rethink talent pipelines as they experiment with AI agents across various tasks and functions. A checklist on the best and worst cases from their AI deployments will help them identify areas where human factors remain crucial even as AI systems advance.

SNAPSHOTS

Virus hijacks caterpillar's gut-brain link to spread

HearNPV viruses cause infected cotton bollworm caterpillars to climb to the tops of plants before dying, allowing the virus to scatter further by wind and gravity and infect healthy larvae below. Scientists have found how now. When the virus infects the caterpillar's midgut, it triggers the release of a chemical messenger, tachykinin, which travels in the blood to the brain and activates the HaTKR receptor. This signal renders the caterpillar attracted to light, causing it to climb upwards.

Ultra-thin electronics better survive space radiation

Space radiation usually destroys standard silicon electronics quickly. Scientists have developed an electronic system using molybdenum disulphide only a few atoms thick; high-energy particles pass through it without causing damage. The team built a communication device using MoS2 and launched it into orbit. It operated for nine months with nearly zero data transmission errors. While traditional silicon systems might fail within two years in harsher orbits, the new system is predicted to last 270 years.

In surprise, unique plant evolved before spreading

Lipstick vines, which grow in North India and Southeast Asia, grow red tube-shaped flowers for sunbirds with long beaks. But one relative, *Aeschynanthus acuminatus*, has shorter flowers for birds with shorter beaks. Scientists investigated how this plant evolved in Taiwan. Surprisingly, they found the plant changed its flowers on the mainland, then migrated to Taiwan, challenging ideas of speciation and suggesting the plant shifted to a new pollinator.

Question Corner

Colour theory

Why are some stars blue, some white, some red?
– *B.R. Sravan*

The main reason is surface temperature.
Stars behave roughly as objects that absorb all incoming radiation and radiate energy back based solely on their temperature. The colour we see depends on the wavelength of light that the star emits the most energy.
Blue and blue-white stars have surface temperatures of 10,000 K or more.
These are usually very massive stars with nuclear fusion happening at a furious rate. Examples include Rigel and Spica.
White stars' surfaces are at 7,500-10,000 K, hot enough for the peak radiation to be in the visible spectrum. To the human eye, colours appear together as white. This is also why we don't see green stars: they also emit other colours that the human eye mixes together.
Yellower stars such as the sun and Alpha Centauri A have surfaces at 5,200-7,500 K. Finally, orange and red stars' surfaces are up to 5,200 K hot. These are the coolest stars and emit most of their energy as infrared radiation. Examples include Betelgeuse and Proxima Centauri.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

What's ailing India's battery scheme for EVs?

Why is there a lack of momentum? How will it affect the domestic battery manufacturing ecosystem?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

An ambitious ₹18,100 crore scheme to facilitate the manufacture of advanced chemistry cell batteries in India, particularly for Electric Vehicles (EVs), is floundering. The Advanced Chemistry Cell Production Linked Incentive (ACC PLI) had a target of making battery cells worth 50 gigawatt-hour (GWh) by 2025, but only 1.4 GWh has been installed; approximately 8.6 GWh is 'under development' but delayed, while 20 GWh has seen no progress at all. Additionally, the scheme has generated only 1,118 jobs – just 0.12% of the estimated 1.03 million – and attracted only 25.58% of its targeted investment.

What are Advanced Chemistry Cells (ACC)?

They represent a new generation of advanced storage technologies that can store electric energy as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required. Lithium-ions – the mainstay of cellphone batteries – are the most prominent today among this class of batteries. However, the scheme is "technology agnostic" and is open to other combinations such as nickel manganese cobalt, lithium-ion phosphate and sodium-ion batteries.

What is the intent of this scheme?

The ACC PLI scheme, launched in October 2021, was designed to catalyse a domestic battery manufacturing ecosystem and reduce a near-total reliance on Chinese imports. However, an analysis by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and JMK Research and Analysis reveals that the policy's ambitious goals have yet to translate into significant realised capacity. As of October 2025, only 2.8% of the targeted 50 GWh capacity has been commissioned. The 1.4 GWh is from a single beneficiary, Ola Electric. Moreover, despite a targeted incentive disbursement of ₹2,900 crore by this period, zero funds have been paid out because no beneficiary has met the necessary milestones.

> To make the ACC PLI a success, dedicated schemes for critical mineral refining and component manufacturing are required

How was the scheme supposed to work?

The primary aim of the scheme was to encourage industry into building domestic capacity for essential components like cathodes, anodes, and electrolytes. This was to be done by attracting major private players and global technology partnerships to the sector and in the process lower battery costs to accelerate the adoption of EVs and Energy Storage Systems (ESS). The latter are large blocks of battery cells that can be used to supply solar or wind power, during the night or windless days respectively. Companies were to participate in an auction to commit to a minimum bid size of 5 GWh and have a net worth of at least ₹225 crore per GWh of committed capacity and produce batteries. For every battery sold, they could claim up to ₹2,000 per KWh as subsidy. There were other caveats though: companies had to achieve 25% Domestic Value Addition (DVA) within two years and reach 60% DVA by the fifth year.

Which companies were selected?

In the first auction round of the ACC PLI scheme, three companies were selected as beneficiaries: Ola Electric, Reliance New Energy, and Rajesh Exports. Ola Electric was awarded a capacity of 20 GWh; Reliance New Energy initially secured 15 GWh in the first round and subsequently won an additional 10 GWh in the second auction round; and Rajesh Exports was awarded a capacity of 5 GWh.

Why has the scheme been unsuccessful?

The scheme mandates that beneficiaries commission their facilities within a two-year "gestation period," a target deemed unrealistic for building complex gigafactories from scratch in a nascent market. Additionally, the DVA requirements have been difficult because India lacks sufficient facilities for processing minerals, lithium, nickel and cobalt. Secondly, the scheme's evaluation criteria prioritised DVA and subsidy benchmarks over prior manufacturing experience. Thus, established battery players like Exide and Amara Raja did not qualify, leaving the project in the hands of novices who are still building foundational technical competencies. Finally, India's dependency on China for raw material, technical competency and knowhow has led to sluggish progress. A major bottleneck is the delay in visa approvals for Chinese technical specialists, as India lacks skilled workforce for cell manufacturing.

What fix does the report recommend?

Immediate recommendations include fast-tracking visas for technical experts and extending implementation timelines by at least one year to waive current penalties. Long-term success will require schemes for critical mineral refining and component manufacturing, alongside focused R&D and talent development.

Why is India-EU trade agreement significant?

How much of the trade value of what India exports to the European Union region will the EU's tariff concessions cover? Which are the sectors besides textiles, apparel, manufactured goods and Indian traditional medicine services that the free trade agreement will help?

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

Negotiations on the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) – dubbed the 'mother of all deals' by leaders on both sides – officially concluded on January 27, closing about two decades worth of intermittent talks. The deal, which has benefits for both, simultaneously avoids intractable sensitive issues while securing advantageous concessions on most others.

Why is it the 'mother of all deals'?

The FTA has been called thus because of the size of the economies, markets, and bilateral trade involved. The deal brings together the second- and fourth-largest single customs blocs, with the Indian government estimating the combined market size to be ₹2,091.6 lakh crore or about $24 trillion. India has signed about eight FTAs in the last four years. While the other eight FTAs together accounted for about 16% of India's total trade in 2024-25, in the latest full year of data available, the EU itself accounted for nearly 12%. Bilateral merchandise trade between India and the EU stood at ₹11.5 lakh crore ($136.54 billion) in 2024-25, with Indian exports accounting for about ₹6.4 lakh crore ($75.85 billion) of this. The India-EU trade in services touched ₹7.2 lakh crore ($83.10 billion) in 2024.

What is India gaining?

The detailed FTA document has not been made public yet, with information only available through government releases from both sides. Under the deal, the EU will eliminate duties on about 70.4% of tariff lines immediately once the deal comes into effect, covering nearly 90.7% of India's export value. Another 20.3% of products covering 2.9% of India's exports will see tariffs eliminated over 3-5 years from implementation for certain marine products, processed food items, arms and ammunition, among others. In addition, 6.1% tariff lines covering 6% of India's exports will see tariffs reduced, but not eliminated, for certain poultry products, preserved vegetables, bakery products among others or be reduced through quota-based tariffs for cars, steel, certain shrimp and prawns products, among others. So, taken together, the EU's tariff concessions cover more than 99% of the trade value of what India exports to the region. The concessions offered are not limited to merchandise either. While the services sector has not seen as wide an opening up as merchandise, the EU has offered "broader and deeper commitments" across 144 service sub-sectors, including IT/ITeS, professional services, education, and other business services, the government has said.

> Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal claims the deal will be implemented in calendar year 2026

New horizon: The signing of the India-EU FTA in New Delhi on January 27. ANI

Which sectors stand to benefit?

"The potential [of the EU FTA] on labour intensive sectors, where we've got huge wins, is about $35 billion. Out of the $35 billion, $33.5 billion will become 0% duty on day 1," Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal explained to *The Hindu* in an interview following the closure of negotiations. These sectors, which include textiles, apparel, marine, leather, footwear, chemicals, plastics/rubber, sports goods, toys, and gems and jewellery, currently attract tariffs ranging from 4-26%. This is particularly noteworthy because these are primarily the sectors that have been hit by the 50% tariffs imposed by the U.S. on imports from India. "Preferential market access for agricultural products like tea, coffee, spices, grapes, gherkins and cucumbers, dried onion, fresh vegetables and fruits as well as for processed food products will make them more competitive in the EU," the government said in a release. The FTA is expected to benefit Indian traditional medicine services and practitioners as well, it added. As per the deal, in EU countries where regulations do not exist, AYUSH practitioners will be able to provide their services using the qualifications they have obtained in India.

What has India offered to the EU?

Under the deal, about 49.6% of tariff lines covering 30.6% of trade value will see their duties immediately eliminated once the deal comes into effect. Another 39.5% of tariff lines with a trade value of 63.1% will see their tariffs eliminated over five, seven, or 10 years from when the deal is implemented. Taken together, India's total offer covers about 92.1% of tariff lines and 97.5% of trade value.

While a lot of European items are set to get cheaper for Indians, the main consumer-facing items of interest are wine and automobiles. European wine will see current duties of about 150% falling in a phased manner over seven years to 30% for wine priced between 2.5 to 10 euros and to 20% for wine over 10 euros. No concessions have been offered on cheap wine to protect domestic producers. These tariffs all apply under a quota, however, with amounts exceeding the quota limit attracting non-FTA tariffs. On motor vehicles, the tariffs will be gradually reduced to 10% from the current 110%, but also under a quota system. Cars below ₹25 lakh, which account for majority of the Indian market, are not part of the deal. Cars above that limit are divided into three quota brackets. The lowest of these brackets has the smallest quota for European cars, since Indian manufacturers do have a presence there. The highest segment has the biggest quota for European cars since the ultra-luxury segment is where European carmakers don't have Indian competition.

Which sectors are kept out of the deal?

In his interview, Mr. Goyal explained that in all his FTA negotiations the two countries begin by laying out their 'red lines' or sectors that they will not offer any concessions on. So, in the EU deal, India managed to keep out sensitive agricultural sectors such as beef, poultry, dairy products, fish and seafood, cereals, especially rice and wheat, fruits and vegetables, nuts, edible oils, tea, coffee, spices, and tobacco. The EU has kept beef, sugar, rice, chicken meat, milk powder, honey, bananas, soft wheat, garlic, and ethanol out of the deal, and has offered quotas on sheep and goat meat, sweetcorn, grapes, cucumbers, dried onions, and rum made of molasses and starches. Mr. Goyal has expressed his confidence that the deal will be implemented in calendar year 2026, despite the fact that the text still needs to go through legal vetting, translation into 24 European languages, approval in 27 European countries, and finally passage in the European Parliament.

What are some concerns?

The FTA could not make much headway in addressing the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), a tariff structure the EU devised to address the carbon footprint of countries and companies. The EU side argued that CBAM tariffs apply to all countries equally and so it cannot give any concessions to specific countries. However, India has secured a commitment that, if the EU gives CBAM concessions to any other country, those would automatically apply to India as well.

Another concern is that, if India is to attract investments from countries looking to take advantage of the new tariff-free route to Europe, it will have to quickly implement more reforms to make India investment-friendly.

Why have the new UGC regulations been stayed?

Why have there been protests? How have the regulations defined caste-based discrimination? Why were new regulations introduced? What was the main thrust of the 2026 regulations on grievance redressal mechanisms as opposed to the 2012 ones?

Abhinay Lakshman

The story so far:

On January 29, the Supreme Court stayed a new set of regulations notified by the University Grants Commission (UGC) earlier this month on the promotion of equity within higher educational institutes, saying they were "vague and could be misused". These regulations were brought to replace a previous version in effect since 2012, to specifically address issues of caste discrimination in campuses.

What are the 2026 UGC equity regulations?

The University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations Bill, 2026, were notified by the higher education regulator on January 13, 2026. In these regulations, the UGC defined "caste-based discrimination" as "discrimination only on the basis of caste or tribe against the members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other backward classes". It also defined "discrimination" as "any unfair, differential, or biased treatment or any such act against any stakeholder, whether explicit or implicit, on the grounds only of religion, race, caste, gender, place of birth, disability, or any of them..." The regulations provided for establishing a layered grievance redressal system for addressing discrimination. This included provisions to set up Equal Opportunity Centres, Equity Committees, and Equity Squads in each institute, and Equity Ambassadors in each unit (departments, schools) of the institutes. It also provided for an institutional accountability mechanism, where institutes found violating the regulations could be penalised.

> A significant section argued that the new regulations were not strengthening the 2012 rules on anti-discrimination

Heavy pushback: A protest being held in Lucknow against the new UGC equity guidelines on January 29. SANDEEP SAXENA

Why were the regulations said to be biased?

Protesters argued that the regulations discriminated against "general or upper castes", hinging on the (lack of) definition of "caste-based discrimination", the dropping of the provision on "false complaints", and the ambiguity in the functioning of bodies like the 'Equity Squads'. By leaving them out of this definition, the upper caste section argued that the regulations had "presupposed" that general or upper caste students would be the perpetrators of caste discrimination at all times. Further, the protesters argued that the provision of punishment for "false complaints" had also been absent, which they said could have been useful to counter false complaints.

How did these regulations come about?

These regulations were devised under the supervision of a Supreme Court Bench that was hearing a batch of petitions filed in 2019 by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi, both of whom had died by suicide, alleging caste-discrimination in 2016 and 2019, respectively. Their petition had argued that the 2012 UGC regulations were not being implemented to address "rampant caste-discrimination" in higher education institutes. During the hearings, the UGC had told the Supreme Court that it had formed a Expert Committee to revisit the 2012 regulations under the Chairmanship of Professor Shailesh N. Zala. The committee drafted a revised version of the equity regulations, and the final regulations were notified in 2026.

What were the 2012 regulations?

In the 2012 regulations, the regulatory authority had not defined "caste-based discrimination" separately. It had defined "discrimination" with sub-sections on depriving access to education, imposing undignified conditions, and maintaining separate educational and social spaces within the campuses on the basis of caste, creed, religion, language, ethnicity, gender, and disability. The 2012 regulations had provided for the setting up of grievance redressal mechanisms, which included the establishment of Equal Opportunity Cells, SC/ST Cells, and the appointment of an anti-discrimination officer. Further, in prohibiting discrimination against SC and ST students in higher educational institutes, the 2012 regulations had identified a total of 25 specific instances and types of discrimination in various aspects of campus life. None of these specific acts has been included in the 2026 regulations. However, the 2012 regulations did not provide the language to protect "Other Backward Classes" and did not have institutional consequences for not following through on the implementation of the regulations.

Were only upper castes upset?

No. A significant section argued that the new regulations were not strengthening the 2012 rules on anti-discrimination, principally because of the lack of specificity on what counted as discrimination. Professor Sukhadeo Thorat, former Chairperson of the UGC argued that the new regulations do not clarify if they will be applicable to institutes like IITs, IIMs, polytechnics, nursing institutions, etc., further noting that the composition of Equity Committees should mention the quantum of representation for SC, ST, and OBC members. Jadavpur University Assistant Professor Subhajit Naskar said in dropping the specific acts of discrimination, the new regulations had, in fact, diluted the 2012 regulations.

Now what?

The SC has said that the batch of petitions challenging the 2026 regulations will be heard with the petitions filed by the mothers of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi, also calling for the UGC to go back to its 2012 regulations while it hears the challenges to the new version. In doing so, the SC has also framed certain legal questions that are to be addressed in the course of the hearings in these matters from now onwards. These petitions are to come up for the next hearing in March.

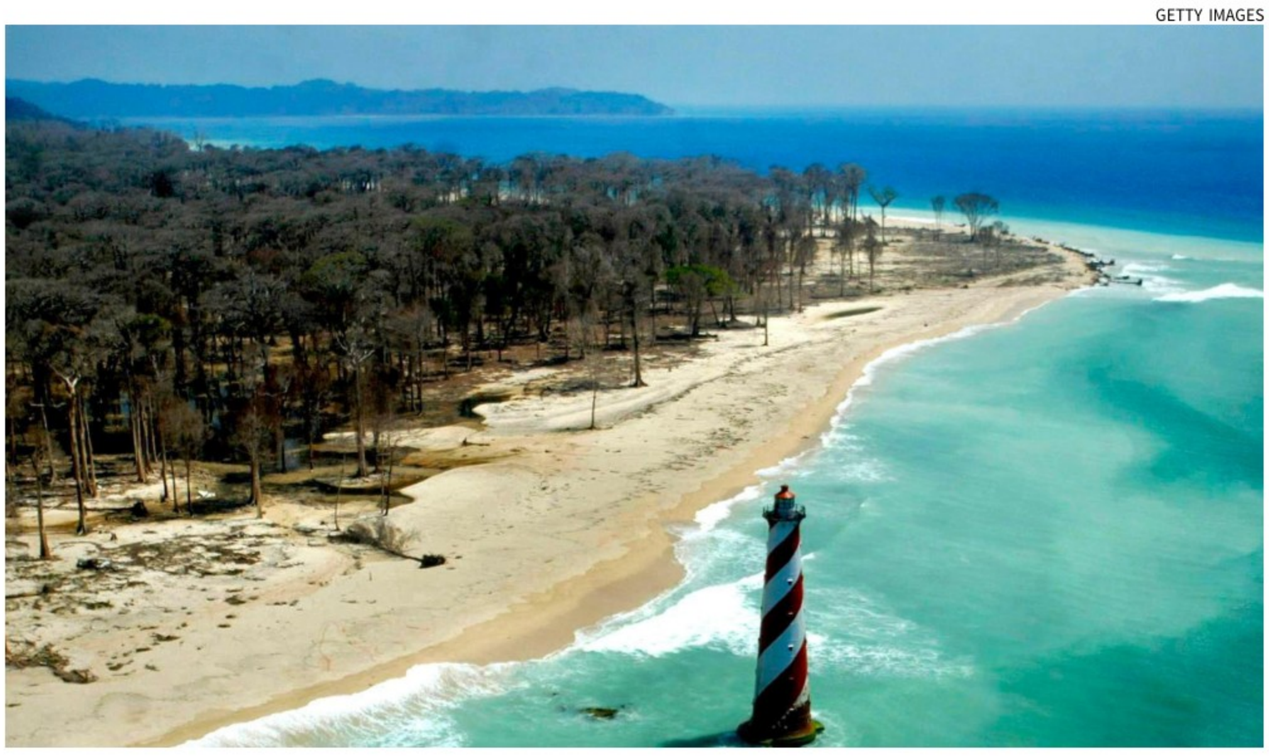
Between the sea and the state

The Great Nicobar project

The ₹72,000-crore mega-infrastructure initiative, which envisions transforming the remote outpost into a major transshipment and defence hub, has sparked procedural, ecological and displacement concerns

Vasudevan Mukunth

GETTY IMAGES



Great Nicobar Island, the southernmost tip of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, is one of the most pristine and isolated ecosystems on the planet, and the home of the Shompen and the Nicobarese tribes and unique wildlife.

This tranquillity is poised for a radical transformation. The Indian government has sanctioned a ₹72,000-crore mega-infrastructure initiative called the 'Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island'. Spearheaded by NITI Aayog and implemented by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation, the project envisions transforming the remote outpost into a major transshipment and defence hub.

The project covers around 166 sq. km, or nearly 18% of the island's total land area, and entails an integrated city-state designed to serve both commercial and military purposes. The crown jewel is the international Container Transshipment Terminal in Galathea Bay. The bay's natural depth is ideal to handle large container ships that currently dock in Colombo, Singapore or Klang. The government has said the terminal will eventually handle 14.2 million TEUs of cargo, capturing a significant slice of the transshipment revenue.

A new airport serving both civilian and military needs is planned for 24/7 operations, including handling 4,000 passengers per hour at its peak. The government has said this airport will offer a forward base for surveillance and logistics in the Indian Ocean region.

Perhaps the project's most transformative aspect is the new township. The government has estimated that over the next 30 years, the local population will swell from the current 8,000 to more than 3.5 lakh people. The township will include industrial zones and residential areas and will effectively urbanise a significant chunk of the rainforest. All this infrastructure will be powered by a new 450-MVA gas- and solar-based power plant.

India's push is driven by geopolitics and economics. The island overlooks the western entrance of the Strait of Malacca, a narrow shipping lane through which around 40% of the world's trade and most of China's energy imports pass. In the event of a conflict, a robust military presence here would allow India to theoretically monitor or interdict Chinese naval assets entering the Indian Ocean. Second, nearly 75% of India's transshipment cargo is currently handled by ports outside the country, increasing the logistic costs for Indian trade. A transshipment hub at Great Nicobar could on the other hand allow India to service its own cargo as well as attract international vessels.

Source of controversy

The project's primary source of controversy has been speed, which critics have argued is part of government efforts to sidestep due diligence. In 2021, NITI Aayog engaged AECOM, a global infrastructure firm, to prepare a pre-feasibility report. In March 2022, the terms of reference for the environmental impact assessment (EIA) were finalised. And in November, the Union Environment Ministry granted stage-I forest clearance to divert 130.75 sq. km of forest land. Days later, the final clearance was granted as well.

The rapidity raised eyebrows because the project required denotifying parts of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and tribal reserve. Galathea Bay is itself a crucial nesting site for the giant leatherback turtle, ancient mariners that travel thousands of kilometres to nest on these beaches. Building breakwaters and dredging for the port will effectively destroy the beach and permanently drive the turtles away. Conservationists and policymakers have also criticised the EIA for being based on a single season of data rather than the comprehensive multi-season data usually required for projects of this magnitude.

To build the township and airport, an estimated 9.64 lakh trees will be cut, per government figures; independent ecologists fear the number could be higher. These forests are the only home of the Nicobar megapode and the Nicobar tree shrew.

The rules require the state to plant trees elsewhere to 'compensate' for the deforestation. Since there is no land left in the archipelago, the government has proposed planting trees in Haryana, thousands of kilometres away – an idea ecologists have scoffed at because planting saplings in a dry, dusty scrubland in North India couldn't possibly replace the complex ecological functions of a tropical evergreen rainforest in the Bay of Bengal.

The project will also affect more than 20,000 coral colonies. The government has proposed translocating these corals to other sites but that's a complex process with a notoriously low survival rate worldwide. Overall, critics have said the state's ideas amount to ticking boxes rather than a genuine conservation strategy.

The project's social effects are likely to be equally volatile. The island is home to two distinct indigenous groups, the Nicobarese and the Shompen. The Shompen are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) – largely semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers who have lived in the island's interior for millennia, with limited contact with the outside world.

While the government claims the Shompen settlements won't be disturbed, anthropologists are clear that an influx of 3 lakh outsiders and construction activity will push them into smaller pockets of land. The Shompen also lack immunity to common diseases. Greater contact with construction workers and tourists thus poses a severe risk of an epidemic that could wipe out the tribe, a fear international scholars have articulated as a risk of "genocide".

Tragic history

While the Nicobarese are more assimilated, they have a tragic history with the project site. Before the 2004 tsunami, many of its members lived on the west coast; after the tsunami, they were relocated to the east coast with the promise that they could eventually return to their ancestral lands. But by designating the west coast for the project, the government is effectively barring the Nicobarese from ever returning home.

Under the Forest Rights Act 2006, diverting forest land requires the gram sabhas' consent. Reports, however, indicate that the Tribal Council issued a 'no objection certificate' in 2022, only to withdraw it later alleging the Council had been rushed into signing without understanding the implications. The government has proceeded with the project anyway.

In 2023, the National Green Tribunal temporarily stayed the project and constituted a high-powered committee to revisit its clearances. However, the committee submitted its report in a sealed cover and the NGT allowed the project to proceed saying the committee had found the project to be compliant. Critics, including a group of former civil servants, condemned this lack of transparency saying an environmental clearance process for a public project couldn't be treated as a state secret.

Tribal leaders continue to protest, with captains from Great Nicobar alleging publicly that they were forced by district administrations to sign "surrender certificates" for their land, further fuelling suspicions that the government is bulldozing the project through.

THE GIST

- The project covers around 166 sq. km, or nearly 18% of the island's total land area, and entails an integrated city-state designed to serve both commercial and military purposes
- The project's primary source of controversy has been speed, which critics have argued is part of government efforts to sidestep due diligence
- The island is home to two distinct indigenous groups, the Nicobarese and the Shompen, who are likely to be affected by the project

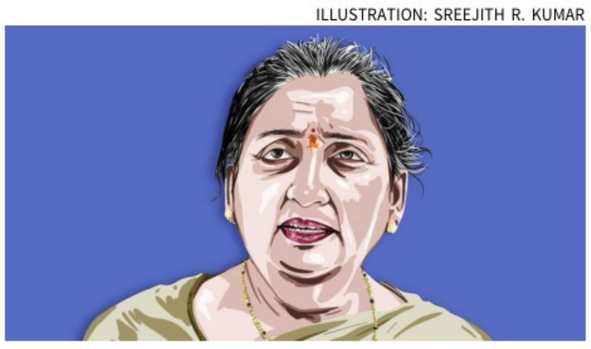
Out of the shadows

Sunetra Pawar

Ajit Pawar's wife has large shoes to fill as she takes on the twin responsibilities of party leadership and the role of Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



Her gaze fixed on the floor, pallu firmly tucked over both shoulders, sadness in her eyes and a quiet demeanour. That is how Sunetra Pawar, mother of two sons and wife of former Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP supremo Ajit Pawar, walked into Maharashtra's Vidhan Bhavan on Saturday. Flanked by party leaders, she strode quietly to the NCP office in Mumbai and paid floral tributes to the photo of her husband who was killed in a plane crash on January 28. It was here that the party which her husband formed three years ago along with several regional satraps after rebelling against uncle Sharad Pawar, chose her unanimously as its leader on Saturday.

Within some time, clad in a white saree, she reached Lok Bhavan to be sworn in as Maharashtra's first woman Deputy Chief Minister. None of the Pawar family members except her son were present for the swearing-in ceremony, as they said they were not invited. For Sharad Pawar, who had once called her an 'outsider' in the Pawar family, the immediate concern was to take care of the grief-struck family.

She takes over the reins of her husband's party at a time when it faces a survival crisis. There is a buzz about a possible reunification between the NCP and Sharad Pawar's NCP SP, as the leadership within the NCP looks fragmented and directionless. Like most regional parties which are dynastic in nature, the NCP too would want a Pawar at the helm, to keep it together. The debate over which Pawar should helm it and whether Sharad Pawar should now take the decision for both parties together, is yet to be settled. Meanwhile, Sharad Pawar has himself said it was senior NCP leaders Praful Patel and Sunil Tatkare who had taken decisions for their party, indicating that they were trying to keep the rest of the Pawar family out of it.

Tall task

Sunetra Pawar is a political novice, say critics, who will now try to fill in the large shoes of her late husband who was known as an able administrator, a politician with a distinct mass appeal and captivating oratory skills. His sudden demise has turned the tripolar political combine of the ruling Mahayuti to a bipolar one. The assertive NCP, which had created its own space in the alliance, faces a tough road ahead, say critics.

So far, Sunetra Pawar had been seen only in the shadows of Ajit Pawar. She has been a Rajya Sabha MP for the past year and a half, with over 26 years of experience in social service and the educational sector. In any case, she has so far taken a subservient role, coming from a political culture where women are seen as a subsidiary support system to their ambitious men folk.

She was born and brought up in Ter village in Dharashiv in Marathwada, in a Maratha political family. Her brother Padmasinha Patil was a Minister in the State government. A Bachelor of Commerce by education, she took more interest in music, photography and painting. Friends say she has been closely involved in several rural development, education and women's empowerment projects in Baramati for years.

"She is a sensitive, meticulous and caring person who always prioritised her children, her mother-in-law, her family and her village, taking keen interest in every small rural empowerment initiative in (Ajit Pawar's home town of) Katewadi," said a friend Asha Shinde.

When in Mumbai, she would love photographing the sun, the sea and nature, said friends.

She sings well, loves listening to music, loves to paint. One of her painting exhibitions was hosted in Mumbai. "Even when we would go out as friends, she would take a few audio cassettes with her. We would listen to lovely songs on our way to the trip," said Vandana Katti, a friend of over 22 years.

Many of her close friends expressed confidence that she will be an evolved, progressive and sensitive leader who knows how to take people along. For now, the question is whether she will be able to keep her flock together and navigate the party and family relations through the most challenging phase.

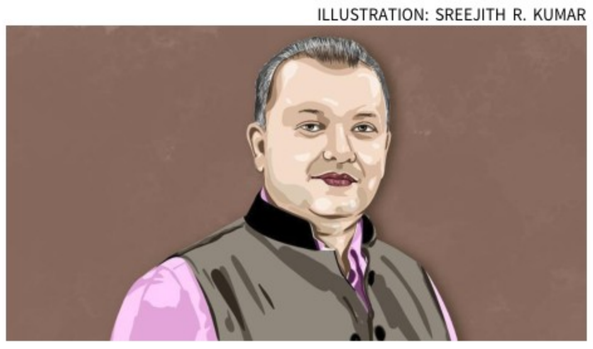
The Young Turk

Gagan Thapa

The 49-year-old Nepali Congress leader says he is ready to carry the generational change within the country's oldest party to governance if he is voted to power

Sanjeev Satgainya

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



In mid-January, Nepal's oldest party, the Nepali Congress, was in turmoil. A cohort of young leaders led by Gagan Thapa launched a mutiny against the party's old guard, which refused to relent despite growing internal pressure.

Mr. Thapa then marshalled his supporters to convene a "special convention" of the party, a move that culminated in his election as party president. Now, the Nepali Congress heads into elections under the leadership of the 49-year-old, claiming that the party has undergone internal reform and promising to carry that change into governance if voted to power. Many view Mr. Thapa's rise as the culmination of a long and often contentious internal struggle. For years, he was seen as a permanent dissenter – vocal against leadership excesses, openly critical of entrenched practices, and persistent in demanding structural change within the party.

His call for generational change grew sharper after the September Gen Z protests, which demanded not only an end to corruption and misgovernance but also a shift in political leadership – from ageing elites to younger figures. Mr. Thapa argued that if the establishment was unwilling to allow a generational transition through the party's regular convention, a special convention was necessary to force change. And he did it.

Risen from the ranks

Born into a middle-class family, Gagan Thapa grew up in Kathmandu and developed an early interest in politics during his school years. He entered public life as a student activist during the 1990 political movement that restored multiparty democracy in Nepal. During the 2006 people's movement, he emerged as a vocal advocate for the abolition of the monarchy.

Appointed to the Constituent Assembly in 2008 under the proportional representation system, he steadily consolidated his position within the party. Since 2013, he has won three consecutive elections from Kathmandu-4 to serve as a Member of Parliament. This time, however, he is contesting from Sarlahi-4 in the Madhesh plains, bordering India, and the party has named him its prime ministerial candidate.

"He has struggled his way to the top, but what also needs to be noted is that he has switched alliances multiple times," says Chandrakishore, a political commentator. "Now, as the new leader of the country's oldest party, his real challenges are only beginning."

Mr. Thapa, a crowd-puller, has a keen sense of political timing and an ability to connect with masses. But the same loquaciousness that earns him praise has also become a vulnerability. Critics accuse him of delivering more rhetoric than substance. Though known for opposing leadership high-handedness, he is also viewed as selective in his dissent. On more than one occasion, he has chosen accommodation over confrontation.

In July 2024, when then party president Sher Bahadur Deuba joined hands with CPN-UML leader K.P. Sharma Oli to form a government – a move widely criticised as an unparliamentary practice because it brought together the two largest parties – Mr. Thapa publicly opposed the decision. Yet, he later chose to support the Oli government, accepting that he had little room to manoeuvre.

Mr. Thapa has assumed control of the party just ahead of the March 5 elections, widely seen as a litmus test for Nepal's traditional political forces following the Gen Z protests that led to the fall of the Oli government, which had been backed by the Deuba-led Congress.

He takes over at a moment of widespread public discontent with established parties, even as new political forces gain traction. The Congress named him its prime ministerial candidate amid pressure after the Rastriya Swatantra Party, a relatively new entrant, tapped Balendra Shah – a popular figure among the youth – as its prime ministerial face.

Mr. Thapa now carries dual responsibilities: steering the party through a period of transition and delivering electoral success. "He may have won the internal battle, but his real test begins now," says Chandrakishore.

WASHINGTON

Trump administration approves arms sales to Israel, Saudi Arabia

AP

The Trump administration has approved a massive new series of arms sales to Israel totalling $6.67 billion and to Saudi Arabia worth $9 billion. The Saudi sale is for 730 Patriot missiles and related equipments. The sales to Israel are split into four separate packages, including one for 30 Apache attack helicopters. AP

WASHINGTON

U.S. govt. enters partial shutdown but a quick resolution is expected

AFP

The U.S. government entered a partial shutdown on Saturday as a midnight funding deadline passed without Congress approving a 2026 Budget, though disruption was expected to be limited with the House set to move early next week to ratify a Senate-backed deal. Roughly three-quarters of federal operations are affected. AFP

CARACAS

Venezuela announces amnesty Bill to release political prisoners

AFP

Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodríguez on Friday announced an amnesty Bill that could lead to the release of hundreds of prisoners, including Opposition leaders, journalists and human rights activists detained for political reasons. The measure had long been sought by the United States-backed Opposition. AP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan had to 'bow' its head while seeking financial aid: Sharif

AP

Seeking loan had forced Pakistan to "bow" its head and make compromises at the "cost of self-respect", Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said in a candid admission about the humiliation involved in approaching "friendly countries" for financial aid. He added that loans also create obligations that have to be fulfilled. PTI

Separatists kill 21 in multiple attacks in southern Pakistan

Associated Press
QUETTA

Pakistani soldiers and other security officials examine a site following a militant attack in Quetta on Saturday. AP

Separatists from Pakistan's Balochistan province claimed responsibility for nearly a dozen coordinated attacks across southern Pakistan early Saturday that targeted civilians, a high-security prison, police stations and paramilitary installations. Eleven civilians, 10 security personnel and 67 insurgents were killed, authorities said.

Though Baloch separatists and the Pakistani Taliban frequently target security forces in Balochistan and elsewhere in the country, coordinated attacks on this scale are rare. Authorities said at least 108 militants have been killed across Balochistan over the past 48 hours, including 67 on Saturday. Analysts said it was the deadliest single day for militants in decades.

The dead included 11 civilians, among them three women and three children, in Balochistan's Gwadar, police official Ibad Khan said. He said the dead civilians were ethnic Baloch.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said in a statement that 10 security officers were killed.

The outlawed Baloch Liberation Army, or BLA, claimed responsibility for the attacks, during which some of the banks were robbed and a police station and dozens of vehicles torched. The BLA released videos showing female fighters taking part in the attacks, apparently part of a propaganda to highlight the role of women among the militants.

U.S., Israel, Europe incited unrest to tear Iran apart, says Pezeshkian

President accuses the U.S., Israel, and European leaders of exploiting Iran's economic crisis; Trump had expressed support for protesters and warned that the U.S. might take action; Army chief says Iran's nuclear expertise could not be eliminated

Reuters

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Saturday that U.S., Israeli and European leaders had exploited Iran's economic problems, incited unrest and provided people with the means to "tear the nation apart" in recent protests.

The two-week-long nationwide protests, which began in late December over an economic crisis marked by soaring inflation and rising living costs, have abated after a bloody crackdown by the clerical authorities that U.S.-based rights group HRANA says has killed at least 6,563, including 6,170 protesters and 214 security forces.

Masoud Pezeshkian speaks during a visit to mausoleum of leader of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, in Tehran on Saturday. REUTERS

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi told *CNN Turk* that 3,100, including 2,000 security forces, had been killed.

The U.S., Israeli and European leaders tried to "provoke, create division, and supplied resources, drawing some innocent people into this movement," Mr. Pezeshkian said in a live state TV broadcast.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly voiced support for the demonstrators, saying the U.S. was prepared to take action if Iran continued to kill protesters. U.S. officials said on Friday that Mr. Trump was reviewing his options but had not decided whether to strike Iran.

Israel's *Ynet* news website said on Friday that a U.S. Navy destroyer had docked at the Israeli port of Eilat.

"Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Europeans "rode on our problems, provoked, and were seeking – and still seek – to fragment society," Mr. Pezeshkian added.

Meanwhile, Iranian army chief Amir Hatami warned the United States and Israel against an attack, saying his country's forces were on high alert following Washington's heavy military deployments in the Gulf.

He also insisted the Islamic republic's nuclear expertise could not be eliminated, after Mr. Trump said he expected Tehran to seek a deal to avoid U.S. strikes.

"If the enemy makes a mistake, without a doubt it will endanger its own security, the security of the region, and the security of the Zionist regime," Gen. Hatami said, according to the *IRNA* news agency.

The rise and fall of General Zhang Youxia

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

Gen. Zhang Youxia is one of China's few top military officers with combat experience. He joined the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2007, and in 2012, he was appointed to the Central Military Commission (CMC), the country's highest military decision-making body. In 2017, he entered the Politburo, the 24-member body that oversees both the party and the central government, and was elevated to the second-ranked Vice Chairman of the CMC.

In 2022, as President Xi Jinping began a third term following a constitutional amendment, Gen. Zhang retained his position on the CMC and was promoted to first-ranked Vice Chairman, the country's highest-ranking military officer. Even as several senior military officers were removed amid a widening "anti-corruption" crackdown, Gen. Zhang, widely seen as having close ties to Mr. Xi, seemed unaffected.

On January 24, China's Ministry of National Defence stunned observers when it announced that Gen. Zhang and Liu Zhenli, another member of the CMC and Chief of Staff of the CMC Joint Staff Department, were under investigation "for suspected serious discipline and law violations". The decision to place them "under investigation was made by the CPC Central Committee," stated the Ministry in a statement.

'Fuelled problems'

An editorial in the *PLA Daily*, the official mouthpiece of the People's Liberation Army, declared that "in the fight against corruption, no place is out of bounds, no ground is left unturned, and no tolerance is allowed". Zhang and Liu, according to the editorial, "have gravely betrayed the trust placed in them by the CPC Central Committee and the CMC, and seriously trampled on and undermined the system of ultimate responsibility resting with the CMC chairman [Xi Jinping]". It added: "They have severely fuelled political and corruption problems that threaten the Party's absolute leadership over the armed forces and undermine the Party's governance foundation."

Gen. Zhang Youxia

Zhang Youxia, born in 1950 in Weinan City, Shaanxi Province, is a princeling like Xi Jinping – the descendents of China's founding revolutionaries. His father Zhang Zongxun fought alongside Mr. Xi's father Xi Zhongxun during China's civil war. Mr. Zhang joined the PLA in 1968 and gained rare combat experience during the 1979 Sino-Vietnamese war. He became a Major General in 1997 and the commander of the PLA's Shenyang Military Region, which shares a border with North Korea and Russia, in 2007. In the same year, he was appointed to the Central Committee of the party when Hu Jintao was the President. In 2011, he became a General.

A year later, Gen. Zhang was appointed the head of the PLA General Armaments Department, a position that placed him at the centre of China's military modernisation drive, initiated by Xi Jinping.

Mr. Xi launched a sweeping anti-corruption drive aimed at rooting out corruption and favouritism within the PLA's top ranks. He also overhauled the military's command structure, centralising control and authority in his own hands. Several senior officers have fallen to the crackdown, particularly after Mr. Xi assumed his third term. Those sacked since 2022 include Li Yuchao, the commander of China's Rocket Force, and his deputy Liu Guangbin and former deputy Zhang Zhenzhong.

Disagreements with Xi

When the current CMC began its term in 2022, it comprised seven members: Xi Jinping (Chairman); Zhang Youxia (Vice Chairman); He Weidong (Vice Chairman); Li Shangfu (Defence Minister); Liu Zhenli (Chief of the Joint Staff Department); Miao Hua (Director of the Political Work Department); and Zhang Shengmin (Secretary of the Military's discipline commission). Of these, only two have remained in their positions unaffected by the anti-corruption drive – President Xi himself and Zhang Shengmin, the discipline czar who was promoted to the rank of Vice Chairman in October 2025.

While official statements and party mouthpieces offer few details about the investigation into Gen. Zhang, an analysis of official statements by the Jamestown Foundation, a U.S.-based think tank, argued that disagreements with Mr. Xi over PLA development and training were the cause of the General's downfall. "Zhang Youxia's timeline for PLA joint operations training did not align with Xi Jinping's 2027 deadline for the PLA to be capable of invading Taiwan," K. Tristan Tang wrote in Jamestown. "His force-building agenda also focused on fewer priorities and placed less emphasis than Xi on military struggle as a standalone objective, instead integrating it into training activities."

U.S. releases largest batch yet of Epstein documents

Associated Press
NEW YORK

The Justice Department on Friday released more records from its investigative files on Jeffrey Epstein, resuming disclosures under a law intended to reveal what the government knew about his sexual abuse of young girls.

Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche said the department would be releasing more than 3 million pages of documents along with more than 2,000 videos and 1.8 lakh images.

Israeli air strikes kill at least 30 Palestinians

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Hospitals in Gaza said Israeli strikes killed at least 30 Palestinians on Saturday, one of the highest tolls since the October ceasefire aimed at stopping the fighting.

A day after Israel accused Hamas of new ceasefire violations, strikes hit locations throughout Gaza, including lethal ones on an apartment building in Gaza City and a tent camp in Khan Younis.

The strikes also came a day before the Rafah crossing along the border with Egypt is set to open.

Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
16	CE / Electrical / NCTPP - III	Manual unloading of Indigenous coal from Railway wagons

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tnpdcl.org, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/640/Tender/2026

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA,
NIRMAN SOUDHA, KESHARI NAGAR, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751 001
1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CE-BRIDGES - 14 / 2025-26
Following changes are made to the Invitation for the work at Sl.01 "Improvement such as widening and strengthening of Raikia - Simanbadi road from 0/0 to 9/000km (Except 6/425km to 6/575km) in the District of Kandhamal for the year 2025-26" vide **Bid Identification No. CE - BRIDGES - 14/2025-26.**
- The Last date of submission of tender is extended upto **5.00 PM of dt.17.02.2026.**
- Bids received on line shall be opened at **11.30 A.M on dt.18.02.2026.**

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
Chief Engineer, Bridges, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
34001/12/2526 OIPR-34001/34174/1/25-26/0012

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)
OPTCL Lifeline of Odisha
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSET PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN OPTCL

E-EOI NO- EOI-CPC-61/2025-26 **Date: 31.01.2026**

OPTCL invites sealed Expression of Interest (EOI) for **Implementation of Asset Performance Management System in OPTCL.**

The EOI Document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective & scope of work and evaluation criteria etc. can be downloaded from the website www.optcl.co.in/ www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL **Dt: 02.02.2026, 12:00 Hrs** onwards.

The last date for submission of Expression of Interest (EoI) is **16.02.2026 up to 14.00 Hrs.**

Sd/-
CGM(CPC)
HIPR-72/2025-26
/optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha

Ukraine, Moldova hit by blackouts

Reuters
KYIV/CHISINAU

Parts of Ukraine and Moldova, including the capitals of both neighbouring countries, were plunged into blackouts on Saturday caused by malfunctions to high-voltage power lines, officials said.

Officials did not directly link the blackouts to war damage, although Ukraine's power grid has suffered from the accumulated impact of months of air strikes leading to severe restrictions on electricity supplies in recent weeks. Ukraine's Digital Ministry also said a cyberattack was not to blame.

The system is under greater pressure as a cold spell returns this weekend. Russia said on Friday it had agreed to halt strikes on Ukraine's energy infrastructure until February 1 at the request of U.S. President Donald Trump. Kyiv said it would reciprocate, and the countries did not report major attacks.

At least four Ukrainian regions and some parts of Moldova were affected by the blackouts, as well as both capitals Kyiv and Chisinau.

Moldova's Energy Ministry said the disruption in that country was triggered by the outage in Ukraine.

Mine collapses in Congo, leaving at least 200 dead

Associated Press
GOMA

A landslide earlier this week collapsed several mines at a major coltan mining site in eastern Congo, leaving at least 200 people dead, rebel authorities said on Saturday.

The collapse took place on Wednesday at the Rubaya mines, which are controlled by the M23 rebels, Lumumba Kambere Muyisa, the spokesperson of the rebel-appointed governor of North-Kivu province said. He said the landslide was caused by heavy rains.

"For now, there are more than 200 dead, some of whom are still in the mud and have not yet been recovered," Mr. Muyisa said.

SMASHING TIME

India and New Zealand batters go on a six-hitting spree

NIRMAL HARINDRAN

As many as 36 sixes were hit in the fifth T20I between India and New Zealand in Thiruvananthapuram, making it the most-ever in a match between full-member nations. The Indian innings contained 23 maximums while the Kiwis hit 13. The Indian batters smacked 69 sixes, the most by any team in a bilateral series.

OUTCLASSED

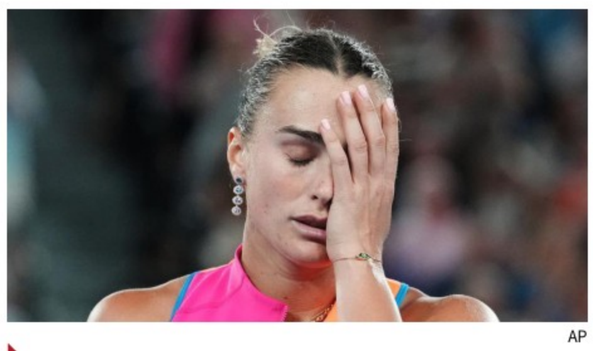
Pakistan seals T20I series after Australia fails trial by spin

AP

Pakistan took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match T20I series against Australia as Salman Agha led by example in a 90-run win in the second match in Lahore. **The scores:** Pakistan 198/5 in 20 overs (Agha 76, Usman 53) bt Australia 108 in 15.4 overs (Green 35, Abrar 3/14, Shadab 3/26); **Toss:** Pakistan; **PoM:** Agha.

TOUGH LOSS

Sabalenka 'really upset' after blowing chances in the final

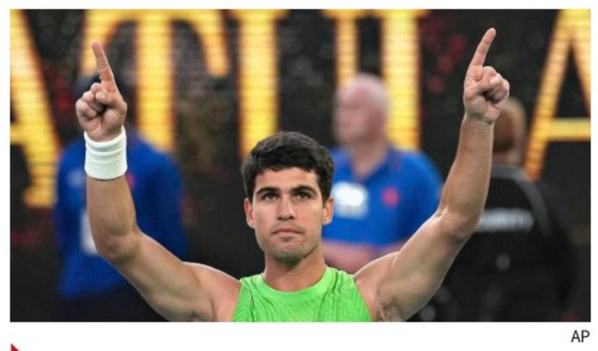


AP

Aryna Sabalenka said she was "really upset" with herself for failing to take her chances in the defeat to Elena Rybakina in the Australian Open final, having led 3-0 in the deciding set. "I was really upset with myself, I would say, because once again I had opportunities," Sabalenka said after losing a second straight final in Melbourne.

EARLY PREDICTION

Nadal has 'full respect' for old-rival Djokovic, but tips Alcaraz for title



AP

Rafael Nadal said he has "full respect" for old rival Novak Djokovic but tipped Spanish compatriot Carlos Alcaraz to win Sunday's Australian Open final. "I think the favourite is Carlos. He's young, he has the energy and he's in his prime. But I mean, Novak is Novak. (But) the favourite is Carlos from my point of view," Nadal said.

Kishan knocks the stuffing out of New Zealand

The southpaw's sensational 43-ball 103 powers the Men in Blue to 271; Suryakumar, Hardik and Abhishek, too, sizzle; the Kiwis fall short despite Allen's daredevilry; Arshdeep scalps five

NZ IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Ishan Kishan's stunning comeback tale turned even more stunning on Saturday night.

From two years of wilderness to the World Cup squad, it has been a remarkable journey for the man from Jharkhand. Now, the team management may find it difficult to keep him out of the XI in the T20I World Cup starting on February 7.

On the rampage

Kishan did no harm to his prospects in India's last match before the big event. He scored a sensational maiden T20I hundred in the fifth match of the series against New Zealand as the Men in Blue posted 271 for five and scripted a 46-run win at the Greenfield Stadium.

Kishan (103, 43b, 6x4, 10x6) was brilliant in front of a near-capacity crowd, which may have come more to watch another Indian wicketkeeper-batter. But, local lad Sanju Samson failed yet again.

Samson had to trudge back to the dressing room in the third over; his thick outside edge off Lockie Ferguson found Bevon Jacobs at deep backward point. So, a disappointing series came to a dismal end for the opener who was, interestingly, playing his first-ever international match at home, after debuting for India way back in 2015.

Sanju's partner Abhishek Sharma (30, 16b, 4x4, 2x6), who lofted a glorious drive over the extra cover fence against Jacob Duffy in the first over, was shaping up nicely when he was cleaned up by Ferguson, the quick who was playing hist first game for New Zealand in well over a year.

But, Suryakumar Yadav joined Kishan and initially chose to watch the exceptional hitting from the latter at the other end. The skipper then changed gears at the right time to score his third fifty (63, 30b, 4x4, 6x6) of the series, and his third-wicket partnership with Kishan yielded 137 off just 57 balls.

Kishan completed his hundred off 42 balls, slog-sweeping Mitchell Santner over deep-midwicket. It was an astonishing display of strokemaking, playing all around the wicket.

After the break, Kishan traded his batting gloves with the keeping ones. The Kiwis needed something special at the top of order, and the hard-hitting Finn Allen, who joined the squad only a couple of days ago, provided that with a blistering 80 (38b, 8x4, 6x6) and he added 100 for the second wicket with Rachin Ravindra.

He became the first of Axar Patel's three victims. Arshdeep Singh took five. And India had just the perfect night.

Blitzkrieg: Kishan threw caution to the wind en route his maiden T20I ton. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Stellar show: Suryakumar smashed 63 off just 30 balls while Arshdeep claimed his first-ever five-for in the shortest format. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Abhishek Sharma b Ferguson 30 *(16b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Sanju Samson c Jacobs b Ferguson 6 *(6b, 1x4)*, Ishan Kishan c Phillips b Duffy 103 *(43b, 6x4, 10x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav st. Seifert b Santner 63 *(30b, 4x4, 6x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Jacobs b Jamieson 42 *(17b, 1x4, 4x6)*, Rinku Singh (not out) 8 *(8b, 1x4)*, Shivam Dube (not out) 7 *(2b, 1x6)*; Extras (w-10, nb-2): 12; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 271.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-31 (Samson, 2.5 overs), 2-48 (Abhishek, 4.6), 3-185 (Suryakumar, 14.3), 4-233 (Kishan, 17.3), 5-261 (Hardik, 19.2).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Duffy 4-0-53-1, Jamieson 4-0-59-1, Ferguson 4-0-41-2, Sodhi 3-0-48-0, Phillips 1-0-10-0, Santner 4-0-60-1.

NEW ZEALAND

Tim Seifert c Hardik b Arshdeep 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Finn Allen c Rinku b Axar 80 *(38b, 8x4, 6x6)*, Rachin Ravindra c Axar b Arshdeep 30 *(17b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Glenn Phillips c Rinku b Axar 7 *(6b, 1x4)*, Daryl Mitchell b Arshdeep 26 *(12b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Mitchell Santner c Suryakumar b Arshdeep 0 *(2b)*, Bevon Jacobs b Varun 7 *(11b, 1x4)*, Kyle Jamieson b Arshdeep 9 *(5b, 2x4)*, Ish Sodhi c Arshdeep b Rinku 33 *(15b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Lockie Ferguson b Axar 3 *(4b)*, Jacob Duffy (not out) 9 *(5b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-8, lb-4, w-4): 16; Total (in 19.4 overs): 225.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-17 (Seifert, 0.6), 2-117 (Allen, 8.6), 3-131 (Phillips, 10.2), 4-137 (Rachin, 11.1), 5-137 (Santner, 11.3), 6-166 (Jacobs, 14.1), 7-179 (Jamieson, 15.3), 8-180 (Mitchell, 15.5), 9-191 (Ferguson, 16.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 4-0-51-5, Hardik 2-0-15-0, Bumrah 4-0-58-0, Varun 4-0-36-1, Axar 4-0-33-3, Abhishek 1-0-13-0, Rinku 0.4-0-7-1.

Toss: India.

PoM: Kishan; **PoS:** Suryakumar.

India won by 46 runs to clinch five-match series 4-1.

Rybakina edges out Sabalenka, becomes queen of Melbourne

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Elena Rybakina took revenge over World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka to win a nail-biting Australian Open final on Saturday and clinch her second Grand Slam title.

The big-serving Kazakh fifth seed held her nerve to pull through 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 at Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne in 2hrs 18mins.

It was payback after the Belarusian Sabalenka won the 2023 final between two of the hardest hitters in women's tennis.

The ice-cool Rybakina, 26, who was born in Moscow, adds her Melbourne triumph to her Wimbledon win in 2022.

It was more disappointment in a Major final for Sabalenka, who won the US Open last year for the second time but lost the French Open and Melbourne title deciders.

She was into her fourth straight Australian Open final and had been imperious until now, with tears in her eyes at the end.

The results (finals):

Women: 5-Rybakina (Kaz) bt 1-Sabalenka (Blr) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.
Doubles: 4-Mertens (Bel) & Shuai (Chn) bt 7-Danilina (Kaz) & Krunic (Srb) 7-6(4), 6-4.
Men's doubles: 6-Harrison (USA) & Skupski (GBr) bt Kubler & Polmans (Aus) 7-6(4), 6-4.

TTFI forms an enquiry committee

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Table Tennis Federation of India has formed a three-member enquiry committee to probe into various charges pressed against Kamlesh Mehta, who was suspended as Secretary General during the AGM on Wednesday.

"The federation emphasises that Mehta has not been condemned or removed without due process. He has been placed under suspension pending an enquiry," Raju Duggal, vice-president and interim treasurer, wrote in a statement issued by the TTFI on Saturday.

The Hindu understands that the committee includes Chetan Gurang (UTK), Samarjeet Singh (JH) and Sundara Varadhan (PY). The trio has been a part of the TTFI's Executive Committee.

"I've not been given any details about these allegations. I can respond to it through proper channels only if and when I get the details," Mehta told *The Hindu*. "I didn't receive any response from the president when I wrote to her reminding about convening the AGM".

INBRIEF

Anahat enters semifinals of Squash on Fire in Washington

Anahat Singh rallied from 0-2 down to stun second seed Sana Ibrahim of Egypt 8-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-7 in the women's singles quarterfinals of the Squash on Fire Open in Washington. Veer Chotrani lost to Englishman Declan James in the men's quarters. James won 8-11, 11-6, 14-12, 11-9.

Chawla off to winning start; Rawat goes down fighting

Ketan Chawla began his Asian Snooker Championships campaign with a gritty 4-2 win over Qatar's Mohanna Alobaidli in his opening Group B match in Doha on Saturday. Laxman Rawat went down 3-4 to Iran's Shahin Sabzi in Group J.

The results: Group B: Ketan Chawla bt Mohanna Alobaidli (Qat) 4-2 (61-29, 73-58, 56-35, 58-59, 37-89 (61), 64-24).
Group J: Shahin Sabzi (Irn) bt Laxman Rawat 4-3 (74-38, 44-64, 79 (67) -45, 34-45, 37-61, 74-8, 75-18).

Indian women play out a draw with Spartak Moscow

The Indian senior women's football side played out a goalless draw against WFC Spartak Moscow in a closed-door friendly match in Turkiye, on Friday. The Blue Tigresses are in Antalya as a part of their preparation for the upcoming AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026. They will continue to train in Turkiye till the first week of February, before shifting base to Perth, Australia, where they are set to play their first Asian Cup match against Vietnam on March 4.

India u-19 women begin with win over Nepal

India began its SAFF U-19 Women's Championship 2026 campaign with a 1-0 win against hosts Nepal at the Pokhara Rangasala Stadium on Saturday. Pearl Fernandes (49') scored the only goal of the game right after the resumption in the second half. Earlier in the day, Bangladesh defeated Bhutan 12-0, a result that puts India in the second spot on the table. The Young Tigresses trail Bangladesh only on goal difference. India will face Bangladesh on February 2.

Fermin Lopez extends Barcelona contract till 2031

Barcelona and midfielder Fermín Lopez have agreed to extend his contract through June 2031, the Spanish club said on Friday. The 22-year-old is one of the club's top young talents, along with Lamine Yamal and Pedri Gonzalez. Fermín was close to a move to Chelsea last summer, but stayed at Barcelona and has remained a versatile member of Hansi Flick's side, thanks to his scoring instinct.

Dwarshuis replaces Cummins in Australia's T20 WC squad

Star paceman Pat Cummins was ruled out of Australia's Twenty20 World Cup campaign on Saturday, while batter Matt Renshaw has come into the squad at the expense of Matt Short.

"With Pat needing more time to recover from his back injury, Ben is a ready replacement who offers a left-arm pace option as well as dynamic fielding and late-order hitting," selector Tony Dodemaide said. "We believe his ability to swing the ball at good pace, along with clever variations, will be well-suited to the conditions we expect and overall structure of the squad." The only other change to the provisional squad named this month sees Renshaw come in for Short, who has paid the price for his ordinary performances in the Big Bash League. The squad is spin-heavy in preparation for the sub-continent conditions.

The squad: Mitchell Marsh (Capt.), Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Tim David, Ben Dwarshuis, Cameron Green, Nathan Ellis, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Glenn Maxwell, Matt Renshaw, Marcus Stoinis and Adam Zampa.

Karnataka needs something special on the final day to avoid early exit

The visitors secure a slender first-innings lead; Punjab reaches 119 for three in its second essay, with skipper Uday Saharan unbeaten on 63

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
MOHALI

Karnataka's window of opportunity to qualify for the Ranji Trophy knockouts shrunk further at the I.S. Bindra PCA Stadium here on Saturday.

After dense fog delayed the start of play by more than two hours, the visitors, from an overnight 255 for six, huffed and puffed to go past Punjab's 309 and take a narrow seven-run first-innings lead.

But with Saurashtra beating Chandigarh by an innings and 56 runs to go up to 26 points, and Madhya Pradesh defeating Maharashtra by 133 runs to finish on 28, Karnataka, currently on 21 points, will need an outright victory to earn at least six points and reach the quarterfinals.

Action aplenty: Karnataka's Shreyas takes on Bajwa who bowled a fiery spell. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

However, going by day three's proceedings, Karnataka will need a miracle. The hosts, in their second essay, batted resolutely to reach 119 for three, with skipper Uday Saharan (63 batting, 110b, 4x4, 2x6) and Anmolpreet Singh (six batting) at the crease.

Karnataka needed quick wickets, but Punjab negotiated 45 overs fairly easily.

Captain Devdutt Padikkal shook up his tactics board by opening the bowling with left-arm spinner Shikhar Shetty and even stationing himself near the boundary behind the slip fielders to pacer Prasidh Krishna.

But it all came to nothing. The spin trio of Shikhar, Shreyas Gopal and Mohsin Khan accounted for all three scalps, but whatever turn was on offer, it wasn't enough to ruffle the opposition batters.

Earlier in the morning Shreyas, with his fifth Ranji half-century of the season (77, 195b, 6x4), played a big hand in Karnataka upstaging Punjab's score.

Speedster Sukhdeep Bajwa bowled a fiery spell and bounced out both Vidyadhar Patil (34, 83b, 6x4) and Shikhar (1, 7b).

But Shreyas carried on, and seemed on course for a fine century, only for Bajwa to pluck the ball out of thin air at long-on and end the 32-year-old's stay.

Now, without the potential run cushion Shreyas could have offered, Karnataka needs to produce something magical to avoid a second straight Ranji Trophy group-stage finish.

The scores: Punjab — 1st innings: 309.
Karnataka — 1st innings: K.L. Rahul b Harpreet 59, Mayank Agarwal c Jashanpreet b Emanjot 46, K.V. Aneesh c Prabhsimran b Harpreet 32, Devdutt Padikkal c Jashanpreet b Harpreet 9, R. Smaran lbw b Harpreet 9, Shreyas Gopal c Bajwa b Anmoljeet 77, Kruthik Krishna lbw b Bajwa 28, Vidyadhar Patil c Anmol b Bajwa 34, Shikhar Shetty c Harpreet b Bajwa 1, Mohsin Khan b Anmoljeet 10, Prasidh Krishna (not out) 3; Extras: (b-2, lb-5, w-1): 8; Total (in 110.2 overs): 316.

Fall of wickets: 1-102, 2-119, 3-137, 4-151, 5-166, 6-213, 7-279, 8-281, 9-307.

Punjab bowling: Goyal 3-1-8-0, Bajwa 16-6-42-3, Harpreet 39-6-125-4, Emanjot 27-7-65-1, Anmoljeet 24.2-5-62-2, Saharan 1-0-7-0.

Punjab — 2nd innings: Abhijeet Garg c Prasidh b Shreyas 33, Prabhsimran Singh lbw b Shikhar 11, Uday Saharan (batting) 63, Jashanpreet Singh c Rahul b Mohsin 5, Anmolpreet Singh (batting) 6; Extras: (lb-1): 1; Total (for three wkts. in 45 overs): 119.

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-70, 3-87.

Karnataka bowling: Shikhar 18-4-43-1, Vidyadhar 3-0-11-0, Prasidh 4-2-10-0, Shreyas 9-2-25-1, Mohsin 11-2-29-1.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES — SEVENTH ROUND, DAY THREE

Elite: Group-A: At Sovima: Nagaland 366 & 85/4 in 33 overs vs. Andhra 536/9 decl. in 130 overs (Abhishek Reddy 51, Ricky Bhui 46, Karan Shinde 51, C.R. Gnaneshwar 227 n.o., K.V. Sasikanth 60, Tripurana Vijay 58, Vino Zhimomi 5/86).

At Jamshedpur: Odisha 282 & 202/8 in 76.5 overs (Subhranshu Senapati 73, Anukul Roy 4/56) vs. Jharkhand 263 in 79.1 overs (Shikhar Mohan 80, Kumar Kushagra 47, Robin Minz 52, Sayed Tufayl Ahmad 4/78).

At Salem: Baroda 375 vs. Tamil Nadu 411/7 in 126 overs (S.R. Athish 43, Vimal Khumar 182, Pradosh Ranjan Paul 80, Mahesh Pithiya 4/110).

At Nagpur: Uttar Pradesh 237 & 200 in 77.3 overs (Aaditya Sharma 44, Dhruv Jurel 40) vs. Vidarbha 237 & 91/4 in 30.5 overs (Aman Mokhade 50 batting).

Group-B: At Indore: Madhya Pradesh 187 & 258 in 76.1 overs (Shubham Sharma 90, Venkatesh Iyer 60, Ramakrishna Ghosh 5/72) bt Maharashtra 179 & 133 in 36 overs (Niraj Joshi 42, Saurabh Nawale 40, Kumar Kartikeya 4/49, Aryan Pandey 4/17); **Points:** *MP 6(28), Maharashtra 0(24).*

At Chandigarh: Chandigarh 136 & 261 in 64 overs (Shivam Bhambri 48, Vaibhav Narang 47, Raj Bawa 55, Dharmendra Jadeja 4/53, Chirag Jani 4/78) lost to Saurashtra 453/3 decl.; *Saurashtra 7(26), Chandigarh 0(8).*

At Mohali: Punjab 309 & 119/3 in 45 overs (Uday Saharan 63 batting) vs. Karnataka 316 in 110.2 overs (K.L. Rahul 59, Mayank Agarwal 46, Shreyas Gopal 77, Harpreet Brar 4/125).

At Porvorim: Goa 355 & 18/0 in 4 overs vs. Kerala 526/9 decl. in 135 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 153, Salman Nizar 52, Vishnu Vinod 113).

Group-C: At Agartala: Gujarat 352 & 53/2 in 19 overs vs. Tripura 427 in 119 overs (Sridam Paul 69, Hanuma Vihari 90, Vijay Shankar 151 n.o., Vishal Jayswal 4/62).

At Delhi: Services 343 & 166/8 decl. in 58.4 overs (Arjun Sharma 45, Devender Lohchab 61 n.o., Raj Choudhary 5/39) vs. Railways 212 in 51 overs (Ravi Singh 55, Zubair Ali 59, Arjun Sharma 6/79) & 69/1 in 21 overs (Pratham Singh 48 batting).

At Dehradun: Uttarakhand 460/7 decl. vs. Assam 140 in 69.1 overs (Rituraj Biswas 62) & 224/6 in 70 overs (Nihar Deka 52, Swarupam Purkayastha 51 batting, Mayank Mishra 4/74).

At Rohtak: Bengal 193 & 200 in 56.5 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 83, Sudip Kumar Gharami 61, Anshul Kamboj 4/51) bt Haryana 100 & 105 in 26.1 overs (Shahbaz Ahmed 6/38); *Bengal 6(36), Haryana 0(24).*

Group-D: At Nadaun: Himachal Pradesh 168 & 26/2 in 9 overs vs. Jammu & Kashmir 771 in 182.1 overs (Shubham Pundir 165, Paras Dogra 52, Abdul Samad 61, Kanhaiya Wadhawan 110, Abid Mushtaq 177, Auqib Nabi 54, Yudhvir Singh 65, Rohit Kumar 4/131).

At Hyderabad: Chhattisgarh 283 & 100/2 in 39 overs (Anuj Tiwary 47 batting) vs. Hyderabad 631 in 154 overs (Aman Rao 52, Abhirath Reddy 121, Kodimela Himateja 171, Pragnay Reddy 126).

At Mumbai: Delhi 221 & 206/4 in 51 overs (Vaibhav Kandpal 61, Ayush Doseja 62 batting) vs. Mumbai 317 in 103.2 overs (Musheer Khan 57, Siddhesh Lad 103, Suved Parkar 58, Divij Mehra 5/64).

At Puducherry: Rajasthan 168 & 352 in 94.3 overs (Ramnivas Golada 47, Mahipal Lomror 131, Kunal Singh Rathore 44, Sagar Udeshi 4/88, Karan Kannan 6/139) vs. Puducherry 349 & 51/2 in 15 overs.

Rishabh downs Pranav

Second seed Rishabh Deshpande got the better of Karnataka's Pranav Aggarwal 15-5, 15-5 in the men's second round of the Yonex-Sunrise all-India senior ranking badminton in Bengaluru.
Karnataka's unseeded Bhavesh Kunche upset third seed S. Thanmukil of Tamil Nadu 15-12, 16-14.

Karnataka draws with Tamil Nadu

Pavandeep Bharadakane (152) starred as Karnataka drew with Tamil Nadu in the under-14 South Zone at Vizianagaram.
The scores: Tamil Nadu 234 in 68.5 overs (B. Sanjay 61, Haricharan 55, Samrat Aditya 4/50) drew with Karnataka 340/7 in 90 overs (Pavandeep Bharadakane 152, Athreya Bhat 47 n.o.).

Akaash tops the table

Akaash Ashok Kumar topped the overall standings at the end of Round three of the K. Damodar & Co. 10th Karnataka State tenpin bowling championship (Men) at Amoeba here. Akaash finished with a cumulative pinfall of 6,408 in 32 games, at an average of 200.25. Overnight leader Vijay Punjabi sat in second position with total pinfall of 6,358.

Gukesh's title hopes end after draw against Aravindh

CHESS

Press Trust of India
WIJK AAN ZEE

D. Gukesh played out a draw with compatriot Aravindh Chithambaram, the result ending the reigning World champion's title hopes on a tough day for Indian players in the Tata Steel Masters 2026 here.

R. Praggnanandhaa was also at the receiving end against a now-rejuvenated Vincent Keymer.

With just two rounds remaining in the first super tournament of the year, it has turned out to be an all-Uzbek duel as both Javokhir Sindarov and Nodirbek Abdusattorov are locked on seven points each.

It remains to be seen who catches up with them but for now, it's Uzbekistan all the way.

For Arjun Erigaisi it was a tricky decision to make -- whether to go all out or just remain conservative. The Indian decided on an aggressive approach and was duly punished by Sindarov who recently won the Chess World Cup.

The results - 11th round: Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 6.5) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 7); R. Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 4.5) lost to Vincent Keymer (Ger, 6); D. Gukesh (Ind, 5.5) drew with Aravindh Chithambaram (Ind, 4); Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 5.5) drew with Matthias Bluebaum (Ger, 6); Anish Giri (Ned, 5.5) beat Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus (Tur, 5.5); Arjun Erigaisi (Ind, 4) lost to Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 7); Thai Dai Van Nguyen (Cze, 3) lost to Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 6.5).

Rojit and Celestina triumph

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Indians Rojit Singh Yanglem and Celestina won the men's and women's gold in 200m sprint on the final day of the Track Asia Cup, a UCI Class-2 cycling competition, on Saturday.

The Indian National team topped the tally with 15 gold, 14 silver, and 10 bronze medals.

Other results (winners): Men: Elite: Scratch race (7.5 km): Zeinolla Azamatuly (Kazakhstan); **Elimination:** Bernard Benyamin Van Aert (Indonesia). **Junior: Keirin:** Max Singh Narengbam (India). **Women: Elite: Point race:** Nafosat Kozieva (Uzbekistan) 78 points; **Keirin:** Triyasha Paul (India); **Omnium II - Tempo race:** Nafosat Kozieva (Uzb) 80; **Omnium IV - Point race:** Nafosat Kozieva 120. **Junior: Sprint (200m):** Thabitha Shaffi (India); **Scratch (7.5 km):** Aigerim Smailkanova (Kaz).

ROUND-UP

'World Cups are special occasions when you play against the best'

S. Shrivathsan
CHENNAI

At 41, Roelof van der Merwe is showing no signs of stopping. The veteran Netherlands all-rounder may not have age on his side heading into the T20 World Cup, but that has not stopped him from brimming with excitement like a kid in a candy store.

"I get asked this question a lot these days (about his age). I love competing; obviously, World Cups are special occasions when you play against the best. I love competing at the highest level, and that is probably my biggest motivation to keep going," van der Merwe told *The Hindu* after a Dutch training session at the Super Kings Academy here.

With fuel still left in the tank of what has been an ever-running vehicle, van der Merwe, with assistance from his teammates, is determined to pin down some heavyweights. For the first round of the marquee tournament, the Netherlands has been pitted with co-host India, Pakistan, the USA and Namibia in Group A.

"The India and Pakistan matches will be the standout ones for us; we have to stay on top of our game to beat them.

"Our primary objective is to get to the next stage (Super Eight). We have beaten big teams and won games at World Cups but we want to get on a roll and compete in the knockout stage," added the former South Africa international.

van der Merwe is confident of the Netherlands causing a few upsets. FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

> I love competing at the highest level, and that is probably my biggest motivation to keep going

To leave an imprint on the T20 World Cup, the Netherlands is banking on past experience, especially the 2023 ODI World Cup, and local knowledge gained via pre-event camps in Mumbai and Chennai.

"A lot of us have played in these conditions, but in a different format (ODI). We know what to expect in terms of how teams might approach us. We will take a lot of confidence from the 50-over World Cup (the Netherlands defeated South Africa and Bangladesh in the league stage)," said van der Merwe.

"During the camps, we got to play on different kinds of soil. Getting familiarised with these conditions in both the batting and bowling side of things is very important," he added.

It is now up to the 'orange army' to walk the talk of winning battles.

Devika battles to seal a spot in the final

Fighting till the end: Devika staged a remarkable recovery in the opening game. BADMINTON PHOTO

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

Devika Sihag stormed into her maiden BWF Super 300 final with a straight-game win over World No. 35 Huang Yu-Hsun of Taiwan at the Thailand Masters in Bangkok on Saturday.

The unseeded Indian registered a 22-20, 21-13 win over the fifth-seeded Huang in the women's singles semifinal clash.

Devika claimed her maiden international title at the Malaysia International in August 2025 and later contributed to India's mixed team bronze at the 2025 World University Games. She finished runner-up at the Indonesia Masters Super 100 and made four title clashes in 2024, lifting trophies at the Swedish Open and Portugal International, while settling for second at the Estonian International and Dutch International.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 8.45 a.m.
Men's U-19 World Cup: India vs Pakistan SS Select 2 & JioHotstar, 1 p.m.
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 2 p.m.
WPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
PWL: Sony Sports Ten 4 & LIV, 8 p.m.

Win against MI one of our best, says Klinger

GG ends its losing streak against the Mumbai outfit and qualifies for the Eliminator; Gardner's decision to bat first proves to be a masterstroke

WPL-4

Vivek Krishnan
VADODARA

Until Friday's fixture in the Women's Premier League, Gujarat Giants hadn't prevailed over Mumbai Indians in eight meetings. Amid vociferous backing by its legion of fans at the Kotambi Stadium, Ashleigh Gardner's side finally got rid of the millstone around its neck by registering a hard-earned 11-run victory. It also ensured a spot in the playoffs for the hosts.

According to Giants coach Michael Klinger, this was right among the team's best performances. "We know what we've got to do to beat any team. When we play somewhere very close to our best, we're in a position to beat most teams. We were pretty close to one of our best games tonight. On a surface that was a little bit slower, getting close to 170 was maybe slightly above par," said the Australian.

At the toss, Gardner conspicuously went against the grain by electing to bat first. Among the factors that went into the call was the fact that the surface had been used for three previous games in the tournament.

"We've been playing pretty well batting first. It was the fourth time the wicket was being used. So, we felt if we could post a pretty solid total and bowl and field somewhere near our best, we could defend it," Klinger stated.

The nature of the surface allowed leg-spinner Georgia Wareham to grab the spotlight.

Besides scoring an unbeaten 44, she provided two breakthroughs in four frugal overs.

Interestingly, Giants did consider benching Wareham for the game given her indifferent form.

"It was a real tough call because we thought a lot about bringing Danni Wyatt-Hodge back in," informed the 45-year-old coach.

"We felt (in the end) that Georgia in these conditions was the best option. Now with the confidence going forward, hopefully she'll play a big part in the Eliminator and then hopefully the final".

Chipping in: Wareham came good with an all-round display in the big game. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Points table

	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Royal Challengers (Q)	8	6	2	12	1.247
Gujarat Giants (Q)	8	5	3	10	-0.168
Mumbai Indians	8	3	5	6	0.059
Delhi Capitals	7	3	4	6	-0.164
UP Warriorz	7	2	5	4	-1.146

Q: Qualified

Today's match

DELHI CAPITALS vs UP WARRIORZ

Vadodara, 7.30 p.m

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **7**

DC 5 | UPW 2

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Madsen — WCs in different sports 20 years apart

S. Shrivathsan
CHENNAI

When Wayne Madsen covers the blades of grass at the Eden Gardens and strolls in to face Scotland in the T20 World Cup fixture in Kolkata on February 9, he will inscribe his name in sports history books for more than one reason.

The obvious being Madsen having the "honour" of leading Italy in its first cricket World Cup match. But what may make many rub their eyes in astonishment is the 42-year-old's entry into an elite club. He will join a select list of athletes who have featured in World Cups in two different sports; in Madsen's curious case, it is for different nations.

Back in 2006, Madsen played in the hockey World Cup for South Africa, the country of his birth. Twenty years on, he will hold a cricket bat instead of a hockey stick on the global stage when donning Italy's blue in the T20 showpiece.

"I am really proud that I have been able to represent my countries in two different sports. I am extremely proud to play two sports at two World Cups 20 years apart. It is a pretty unique situation and I am honoured to have done it," Madsen said in an interview to Derbyshire, the county he represents in English cricket.

Those with an Indian connection may remember the multi-faceted M.J. Gopalan turning out for the nation in both cricket and hockey.

True all-rounder: Madsen, who played for South Africa in the 2006 hockey WC, will lead Italy in the T20 showpiece. GETTY IMAGES & ICC

As for Madsen, he locked horns with Dilip Tirkey, India's most-capped player and current Hockey India president, during the Monchengladbach WC in Germany.

"Hockey (playing it) seems like a long time ago, but I do have such fond memories of it. The opportunity to play international hockey at a World Cup... the crowds that we had. They obviously stood me in good stead going into my cricket career," added the veteran.

Madsen, who qualified as an Italian citizen by descent, is still "pinching" himself while processing what has been bestowed on him ahead of the T20 World Cup. "I had not even dreamt of going to the World Cup (cricket)," he said. History awaits him in the City of Joy.

Haryana Thunders in the PWL title clash

Sports Bureau
NOIDA

Table-topper Haryana Thunders continued its impressive performance in the Pro Wrestling League, winning 5-4 over Punjab Royals in the first semifinal. It now awaits the winner of the other semifinal between Delhi Dangal Warriors and Maharashtra Kesri. Thunders bounced back from a 1-3 deficit to lead 5-3 and effectively sealed the match before captain Yui Susaki forfeited her final bout.

Royals opened the scoring, Chirag Chhikara registering a 2-1 win in the 57kg against Rohit. Haryana levelled through Parvinder (74kg), who beat Chander Mohan. Punjab went 3-1 ahead before Haryana fought back through Neha Sangwan (57kg) and Tumur Ochir Tulga (65kg) to confirm a spot in the final.

The result: Semifinal: Haryana Thunders bt Punjab Royals 5-4 [Men: 57kg: Chirag Chhikara (Royals) bt Rohit (Thunders) 2-1; **65kg:** Tumur Ochir Tulga (Thunders) bt Anuj Kumar (Royals) 2-1; **74kg:** Parvinder (Thunders) bt Chander Mohan (Royals) 8-8 by Last Point Scored; **86kg:** Ashirov Ashraf (Thunders) bt Sandeep Mann (Royals) 5-1; **125kg:** Dinesh Dhankhar (Royals) bt Anirudh Gulia (Thunders) 8-6. **Women: 53kg:** Meenakshi (Royals) bt Yui Susaki (Thunders) Forfeit; **57kg:** Neha Sangwan (Thunders) bt Rajnita Jangra (Royals) 9-2; **62kg:** Iryna Koliadenko (Thunders) bt Ana Godinez (Royals) 5-5 by Fall; **76kg:** Priya Malik (Royals) bt Kajal Dhochak (Thunders) 14-0 by Fall].

Arsenal romps past Leeds; Hoffenheim rolls on

EURO LEAGUES

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Premier League leader Arsenal ended its mini-slump with an emphatic 4-0 victory at Leeds United on Saturday, putting it seven points clear despite Bukayo Saka being ruled out through injury just before kickoff. Martin Zubimendi's header and an own goal by Leeds 'keeper Karl Darlow put Arsenal in command before halftime, while Viktor Gyokeres's volley and a clever finish by Gabriel Jesus wrapped things up after the break.

Andrej Kramaric grabbed a brace as Hoffenheim extended its strong run in the Bundesliga with a 3-1 home win over Union Berlin on Saturday.

Gabriel Jesus. REUTERS

Hoffenheim has picked up 19 of a possible 21 points in its past seven games to move level with second-placed Borussia Dortmund.

The results: Premier League: Brighton 1 (Gross 73) drew with Everton 1 (Beto 90+7); Leeds 0 lost to Arsenal 4 (Zubimendi 27, Darlow 38-og, Gyokeres 69, Jesus 86); Wolves 0 lost to Bournemouth 2 (Kroupi 33, Scott 90+1).

Bundesliga: Werder Bremen 1 (Topp 90+4) drew with Borussia M'Gladbach 1 (Tabakovic 61); RB Leipzig 1 (Harder 40) lost to Mainz 2 (Wamangituka 49, Amiri 45+6-pen); Augsburg 2 (Gregoritsch 41, 59) bt St. Pauli 1 (Sinani 32-pen); Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Koch 50) lost to Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Soares 26, Tillman 33, Serrano 90+3); Hoffenheim 3 (Kramaric 42-pen, 45, Leite 47-og) bt Union Berlin 1 (Khedira 68).

On Friday: LaLiga: Espanyol 1 (Roberto 15) lost to Alaves 2 (Blanco 27, Boye 71).

Serie A: Lazio 3 (Pedro 56-pen, Taylor 62, Cataldi 90+10-pen) bt Genoa 2 (Malinovskyi 67-pen, Vitinha 75).

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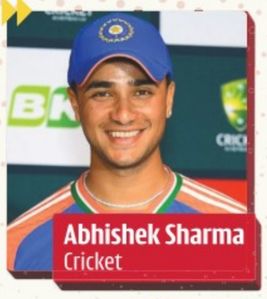
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